

Romans 13: 1 -5
Civil Servants of God

God's earthly provision ...

I. Law & Order

A. Sovereignly Instituted

1. From God
2. Under God
3. Unto God

B. With a Purpose

1. Protection
2. Sword
3. Reward

C. But a Twist

1. Corrupt Authorities
2. Flawed Laws
3. Inconsistent Enforcement

II. Christian Subjection

A. Above Reproach

1. Jesus and the State
2. Christians and Statutes

B. Aware of Ramifications

1. Judgment
2. Wrath
3. Conscience

III. A Higher Decree

A. In the Sight of God

B. Truth & Consequences

... in subservice to His Kingdom.

Children, Listen ...

1. Who is the Ruler over all the nations of the world?
2. Do the leaders of nations always do what is right in God's eyes?
3. How does Paul say Christians are to act when it comes to man's laws?
4. If man's laws try to force us to disobey God, what should we do?
5. You are an American, but if you belong to Jesus are you part of another Kingdom too? Explain.

Smokey's Got a Customer

The old CB radio lingo some truckers would use when they saw police officer with someone pulled over to the side. Humorous phrase, but the bottom line was, someone broke the law and the law was being enforced. It is highly unlikely that the targeted driver was thinking to himself "this is good for me and for society, I am very thankful for this policeman's faithful fulfillment of his duty." But that is in essence what law enforcement is all about. But this is not about speed traps (though it is a familiar illustration of the point to most of us drivers) it is about what God has actually ordained for society, law and order. When practiced with integrity the law is our friend – it is to punish wrong and reward good behavior. We are to obey the laws of man, that's what God tells us to do, and while there are exceptions to the rule, that is to be the norm for our day in day out behavior. Our respect for the law of the land will not only keep us out of trouble, we will have clean conscience, a good witness and as citizens of His Kingdom we will honor the God we serve above all.