

## Notes on Message on Romans 13

**The Christian and His Government** • THE PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT exists for the welfare of our life together. “. . . so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity.” (I Timothy 2:1-3)

• 13:1-7 *“Obey the government, for God is the one who put it there. All governments have been placed in power by God.”*

### **The Work of Government**

1. **Justice:** To create order among selfish, sinful people who will take advantage of each other if they are not hindered. Protection of the rights, body and soul, and property of each citizen. Create a level playing field. Fairness. Setting up of governing bodies, constitution and laws, judges, and police.
2. **Infrastructure:** To do things together that we could not do ourselves such as roads, bridges, water lines & sewers, schools.
3. **Defense** of the Nation: Military forces.
4. **Humanitarian** resources to help citizens whose need is greater than their resources.

### **• LOVE AND GOVERNMENT**

• 13:8-10 *“Pay all your debts, except the debt of love for others. You can never finish paying that! If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill all the requirements of God’s law.”*

Secular government can succeed in creating peace and prosperity only if it practices love to some extent. That is, that all citizens experience justice, freedom, freedom from suffering, access to opportunity and prosperity. In a successful government two things happen:

1. **Capitalism.** There is an opportunity for people to work and create and keep wealth with a capitalistic economic system run by the market. Government creates a level playing field.
2. **Concern.** A humanitarian government helps the citizens with expenses they can’t meet alone, working so that we love our neighbor in practical ways. Christians are under special obligation to be merciful and kind. Jesus said, “When you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.”

Matthew 25:40