

**The Main Point:** RIGHT LIVING. As we wait for the return of the Lord, whether for us personally or for the world, we are not only to be good church people, but good citizens and good neighbors. The Kingdom of God in this present world exists to save, bless, and give life.

### Overview

**1-V1-2** Paul speaking by God the Spirit says that \_\_\_\_\_ governments have been placed in power by \_\_\_\_\_ so we are to \_\_\_\_\_ them. Working for some good and order in a bad government is better than anarchy, chaos, and a spirit of lawlessness. Those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will follow.

**2-V3-4** Most citizens will experience that the government will \_\_\_\_\_ those who are doing wrong. God gives the \_\_\_\_\_ the judges and leaders of a land to \_\_\_\_\_ people and to punish those who are harming other citizens by their ambition and violence.

**3-V5** There are two reasons to obey the government: (1) To avoid being \_\_\_\_\_ and (2) to have a clear \_\_\_\_\_ toward God.

**4-V6** The Christian pays \_\_\_\_\_ gladly for government workers need to be paid and the expenditures they make for the welfare of the nation need to be funded.

**5-V7** The Christian may have his strong opinions about his government and is allowed to express them according to the laws of the land but he is not allowed to be a spoiler, a liar, a name caller—to disrupt meetings of citizens. He is to \_\_\_\_\_ his taxes, and give \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to all whom it is due because of their office.

**6-V8** The Christian is to be continually seeking to pay his \_\_\_\_\_, be out of debt and live within his means so that he will be free to show \_\_\_\_\_ with his money—to be generous toward his church, his neighbor and every good work.

**7-V9** People tend to think of the commandments of God as rules they are inclined to resent and resist. But they are actually descriptions and prescriptions of loving behavior. "For all the \_\_\_\_\_ against adultery, \_\_\_\_\_, stealing and \_\_\_\_\_ are all summed up in this \_\_\_\_\_ commandment: \_\_\_\_\_ your neighbor as \_\_\_\_\_. Love does no \_\_\_\_\_ to anyone, so love \_\_\_\_\_ God's requirements."

**8-V11** A number of reasons are given for right living: (1) To avoid punishment; (2) To have a clear conscience; (3) To live in peace with our neighbors; and (4) To be ready for the coming of our \_\_\_\_\_ - the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**9-V12** Life in this world is ruled by the Evil One and self-obsessed people are called \_\_\_\_\_. As we wait, we \_\_\_\_\_ up and examine our own living to be sure we are walking in the light as He is in the light. We get rid of our \_\_\_\_\_ deeds, shed them like dirty \_\_\_\_\_.

**10-V12** Right living is a \_\_\_\_\_, a protection against being harmed in this world. Right living brings us the favor of governments, neighbors, families and the Lord.

**11-V13** The partying life is over for us. We are exhorted to be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in everything we do so that people \_\_\_\_\_ of our behavior including those friends of ours who are still lost in the world. We are not to participate in wild \_\_\_\_\_, in getting \_\_\_\_\_, or in adultery or \_\_\_\_\_ living, or in \_\_\_\_\_ and jealousy.

**12-V14** If we are going to manage the passions that linger in us in a temptation-filled world, our only hope of success is letting go and letting the Lord Jesus Christ take \_\_\_\_\_ of our thinking and the sinful self-indulgence that happens when we dwell on evil \_\_\_\_\_.

### Word Study • ALL • CONTROL • SUMMED UP • DAY

#### • DEBT • TAXES • GOVERNMENT

**1.V1** \_\_\_\_\_ This is sometimes called the LEFT HAND of God. God creates justice, order, and peace among men in two ways, the civil government and the transformed conscience. Leaders of government are appointed by God.

**2.V2** \_\_\_\_\_ It is sometimes a question if "all" governments are put in place by God. Dietrick Bonhoffer, a Lutheran theologian and church leader, when the Nazis were in power in Germany, actually participated in an attempt to assassinate Hitler. He said two things about this: (1) Every rebellion against a government must be confessed as a sin. (2) The Hitler government was so evil that they were going against the general teaching of the Word of God. • Sometimes injustice and great evil is done by government -- even in a free society. If this may be so, we as citizens have the responsibility to involve ourselves in government by voting, by taking elected positions, by participating in meetings and lobbying to influence government according to our conscience, and seeking legal help for those who are victims of injustice. Above all, we are to pray for all those who rule over us. I Timothy 2:1-3

**3.V6.** \_\_\_\_\_ When there is government, there will be taxes to pay for those who do the work of government - the congress, courts, police, road builders and garbage collectors, teachers and social workers. The alternative is anarchy-- no government and lawlessness. We may think the bureaucracy and regulations are more trouble than they are worth but they moderate the ambitions of unscrupulous men and create a stability in the nation. Jesus told Peter to pay the temple tax for both of them. Matthew 17:24f

**4.V9** \_\_\_\_\_ Everyone has debt at some time in their life. The sense of the original is "Don't be continuing to be ..." In this case, debt. One of the greatest acts of love is giving money to those in need. Debt stops us from being generous. It is said that the two greatest helps to people are the "blood of Christ" which gives life to the spirit and "money" which takes care of bodily life in this world. • A problem with debt is that it makes us a slave to the world. "Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender." Proverbs 22:7 It is said that the greatest destroyer of marriages is debt and money issues. • So right living involves avoiding debt. The big exception is going in debt to buy a home. Most people could not save the cost of a house. It is wisdom to save a few thousand dollars for an emergency fund—for when the washer quits, the car needs repair, or if someone needs to go to the emergency room. It is very good to have a few dollars to share.

**5.V9** \_\_\_\_\_ John Wimber often exhorted us in the Vineyard to "PLAY NICE." That is what love means in practice. That is what the Ten Commandments, which are referred to here, are about. The Master summed up the law when He said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Matthew 7:12

**6.V11** \_\_\_\_\_ This is a reference to the Second Coming of Christ when each of us will be judged. "For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive what we deserve for the good or evil we have done in our bodies." 2 Corinthians 5:10 It is possible to enter heaven with no reward. I Corinthians 3:13 Perhaps it is possible to lose one's salvation by walking again in the old sinner self rather than in love. "It is impossible to bring people to repentance again who turn away from God because they are nailing the Son of God to the cross again." Hebrews 6:6

**7.V14** \_\_\_\_\_ Who can manage even the residue of our sinful nature, fatally wounded by the cross but still tempting us with self-destructive indulgences, selfishly harming other people, and falling back into the "not so good life" of the world? Who can? Only the Lord Jesus Christ. " . . . we will live in triumph over sin

and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. Romans 5:17 "Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, yield yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life." Romans 6:13

**What does this Scripture say to you?**

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