

God & Uncle Sam (Romans 13:1-7)

1. Recognize the God-given authority of government.
(Romans 13:1-2)

2. Respect the proper role of government. (Romans 13:3-5)

- proper government rewards good behavior
- proper government punishes evil

3. Resolve to honor Christ as a good citizen. (Rom. 13:5-7)

Excursus: Christian civil disobedience

There are times when civil disobedience is warranted by the believer. It is important to understand that the Apostle Paul is laying out the proper role of government in this text. Governments can and do abuse its authority.

Here are several guiding principles in regard to civil disobedience.

- The believer's first allegiance is to Jesus.
- Civil disobedience is in order when the laws of man clearly will cause the believer to violate the commands of God.
(see Daniel 3:1-30; 6:1-28; Acts 4:13-22; 5:26-42)
- The believer must be willing to suffer the consequences for civil disobedience to an improper, ungodly government.