CHRISTIANS AND GOVERNMENT
Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study • Fall 2026 • SVCC

THE PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT (ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE)

Romans 13:1-7

What responsibilities has God given to governments, according to Paul?

- verse 4 — for those who do good:
- verse 4 — for wrongdoers:
- verse 6 — they work full-time in _____

13:4 — In what roles are government authorities God's servants?

What responsibilities do those under the government have toward that government?

- verses 1, 5 — everyone should…
  - Why?
  - verse 2 — What will happen to those who rebel against that authority?
  - verse 3 — What should a person do in order to be free from fear of those in authority?
  - verse 4 — When should a person be afraid of those in authority?
- verses 6-7 — we are to pay _____ and give to the authorities what we owe: _____, _____, _____, and _____

13:4 — Under what circumstances does God grant to governments the right to use coercive force ("the sword")?

1 Peter 2:11-17

2:13-14 — What role do human authorities (the emperor, governors, etc.) play in society, according to Peter?

What responsibilities do Christians have toward government authorities?

- verse 13 —
- verse 17 —

How does respectful obedience to authorities quiet unbelievers' accusations that Christians are doing wrong?

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Given the responsibilities of government mentioned by Paul and Peter, what do the prayers of God's people "for kings and all those in authority" have to do with them facilitating an environment in which "we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness"?

Proverbs 31:1-9

What did King Lemuel's mother teach him about the responsibility of the king?

- verse 8 —
- verse 9 —

What two dangers did she warn him to avoid?

- verse 3 —
- verses 4-5 —
    - How might the king fail in his proper duties if he fails to abstain from this temptation?

More from Proverbs

20:26 — A wise king winnows out the wicked; he drives the threshing wheel over them.

20:28 — Love and faithfulness keep a king safe; through love his throne is made secure.

25:2 — It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.

28:2 — When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers, but a ruler with discernment and knowledge maintains order.

29:4 — By justice a king gives a country stability, but those who are greedy for bribes tear it down.

29:14 — If a king judges the poor with fairness, his throne will be established forever.

8:12-21 — "I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have insight, I have power. By me kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just; by me princes govern, and nobles—all who rule on earth. I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity. My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, bestowing a rich inheritance on those who love me and making their treasuries full."