

Being a Christian Citizen

Keith O'Connor

Woodland Church

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“Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So, anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. The authorities are God’s servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God’s servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. So, you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.”
(Romans 13:1-5, NLT)

“Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone, a new life has begun.” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)

1. Submitting to human government

- a. *“Everyone must submit to governing authorities.”* (Romans 13:1, NLT)
- b. *“I have appointed you for the very purpose of displaying my power in you and to spread my fame throughout the earth.”* (Romans 9:17, NLT)
- c. *“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”*
(Romans 8:28, NLT)
- d. *“But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than Him?”* (Acts 4:19, NLT)
- e. *“For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.”*
(1 Corinthians 14:33a, NLT)

2. God ordains Government to hold back evil

- a. *“For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. The authorities are God’s servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God’s servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong.”* (Romans 13:3-4, NLT)

3. We have Dual Citizenship

- a. *“But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for Him to return as our Savior.”*
(Philippians 3:20, NLT)

4. Be Ambassadors of Christ

- a. *“And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So, we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”* (2 Corinthians 5:18-20, NLT)
- b. *“He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”* (Colossians 1:13-14, ESV)
- c. *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*
(Galatians 2:20, ESV)

Growth Work

1. Pray for our Leaders

- a. *“I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.”* (1 Timothy 2:1-2, NLT)

2. Pray for our First Responders

- a. *“The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.”* (Psalm 1:28, NLT)
- b. *“So, let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”* (Galatians 6:9, NLT)

3. Pray for all our Interactions with Others

- a. *“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”* (James 5:16, NLT)
- b. *“Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved.”* (Romans 10:1, NLT)
- c. *“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.”* (John 13:34, NLT)