

POWER FOR SUCCESSFUL LIVING



A STUDY OF ROMANS

#17: A PROFILE OF A CHRISTIAN CITIZEN—13:1-14

JIM HINTON

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.

Will Rogers

The problem isn't how to keep religion out of politics but how to subject political life to spiritual criticism without losing sight of the tension between the political and spiritual realms because politics unavoidably rests on some measure of coercion. It can never become a perfect realm of love and justice, but neither can it be dismissed as the work of the Devil.

Christopher Lasch

HOW CAN I BE A GOOD CHRISTIAN CITIZEN?

I. SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES (v.1-7)

1. Why should we submit?

- **The institution of government is ordained by God (v.1-2)**
- **Live without fear of punishment (v.3-4)**
- **Keep a clear conscience (v.5)**

2. How should we submit?

- **Pay taxes to support the work of government (v.6)**
- **Respect and honor those in authority (v.7)**

3. What if a government isn't fulfilling its God-given role?

- **We have an obligation to resist**
- **The Bible is filled with examples of civil disobedience (See Daniel 3 and 6)**

But Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than any human authority.

Acts 5:29 (NLT)

II. LOVE OTHERS AS I LOVE MYSELF (v.8-10)

- 1. Love is an obligation I owe to everyone (v.8)**
- 2. Love fulfills the law of God (v.9-10)**

III. LIVE KNOWING THAT JESUS COULD RETURN AT ANY TIME (v.11-14)

- 1. Live knowing that the day of our salvation is getting closer (v.11)**
- 2. Live differently than the unbelievers around us (v.12-13)**
- 3. Live in the constant presence of the Lord Jesus (v.14)**