

Government was intended by God to be a governing structure for society. He intended for the people to pay taxes in order to support governing authorities. As difficult as it may be for some societies today, we must still submit ourselves to the governing authorities and trust God's sovereignty over all matters in the earth.

Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Rom 13:6-7 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due*, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Matt 22:17-21 Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, *you* hypocrites? Show Me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription *is* this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Matt 17:24-27 When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the *temple* tax came to Peter and said, "Does your Teacher not pay the *temple* tax?" He said, "Yes." And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?" Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you."

Discussion Item 1: *What is your view of government and does it align with God's view?*

Discussion Item 2: *When would you not obey your government?*

Life Application: *Correct those areas in your life that violate the scripture.*

Helpful Definition:

Government - The act of governing; the exercise of authority; the administration of laws; control; direction; regulation; as, civil, church, or family government. (*Webster*)

Notes:

Proverb 22:29 Do you see a man *who* excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown *men*.

Psalm 72:11 Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him. **Psalm 119:11** Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.