



November 16, 2008 – Will Mackey

## HOW CHRISTIANS RELATE TO THE GOVERNMENT! (Part 3) (Elections are over. Where do we go from here?)

Romans 13:1-7

*<sup>3</sup>For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. <sup>4</sup>For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. (13:3-4)*

### THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IS:

1. To do good for its citizens. (4a)
2. To restrain wrongdoing and punish wrongdoers. (4b)

*<sup>5</sup>Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.*

*<sup>6</sup>This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup>Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. (13:5-7)*

### CHRISTIANS SHOULD GIVE THESE TO THE GOVERNMENT:

1. Submission to their authority (5a)
2. Financial cooperation (7a)
3. Emotional support (7b)

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

1. Every Christian has dual citizenship.
2. For every Christian there are always two kingdoms in conflict.
3. Human governments are ordained by God to do good and restrain evil.
4. The Church is ordained by God to share the gospel and make disciples...in other words, to transform culture.
5. Don't expect the government to achieve what only the Church can accomplish.

### THE RIGHT ATTITUDE:

*Daniel answered, 'O king, live forever. My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions...' Then King Darius wrote to all the people, 'I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.'  
(Dan. 6:21-22, 25-26)*

*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior... (1 Timothy 2:1-3)*