

Politics and Faith

With election day upon us, many individuals become incredibly passionate for their group to win.

There is a passage in Romans which makes us ponder. *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.* (Romans 13:1–7).

Whether we agree or disagree with the politics of those governing us, God has established them for this time. God has a plan that we often do not understand or see completely. Even in the Old Testament when the Babylonians captured all the Southern Kingdom of Judah, God said they would receive their punishment for misconduct. The Babylonians were carrying out God's wrath on the unfaithful Israelites (book of Jeremiah).

No one likes taxes, yet taxes pay for many of the things we enjoy daily, such as first responders, public education, upkeep on roads, and the like. Serving God can look like paying what we owe to the government, no matter how annoying it can seem. Despite political differences, God still has a calling on our lives.

We are to live as His people, serving Him, caring for others in love, following His commands, respecting authority, and seeking God in the midst of our daily lives. Pray for those in authority that they may seek after God as well, and rule justly, serving those who are in their care for this season.

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