

WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Christian and the
Social Order

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SOCIAL ORDER

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick.

continue

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SOCIAL ORDER

(continued) We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

- 1 Peter 2:13-16 - Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

THE CHRISTIAN'S
RESPONSIBILITY TO SUBMIT TO
THE GOVERNMENT

- Matthew 17:24-27 - When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax went up to Peter and said, “Does your teacher not pay the tax?” He said, “Yes.” And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tax? From their sons or from others?” And when he said, “From others,” Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are free. However, not to give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself.

THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNMENT

- Jeremiah 29:4-7 - Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO LIVE FREELY IN SPITE OF THE GOVERNMENT

- 1 Peter 3:13-14 - Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY
TO SERVE GOD WITHIN THE
GOVERNMENT

- 1 Timothy 2:1-6 - First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

PRAY

- . All people

- . Matthew 5:43-44 - You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

- . Kings

- . All in high places

HOW ARE WE TO PRAY

- . Supplications
- . Prayers
- . Intercessions
- . Thanksgivings

WHY ARE WE TO PRAY

- . Lead a peaceful and quiet life
- . It is pleasing in the sight of the Lord
- . To proclaim the gospel

WHAT ARE WE TO PRAY

- . Our prayers must be other-focused
- . Our prayers must be evangelistic
- . Our prayers must be regular
- . Finally, we must be praying for our government officials