

# **Citizens of Two Kingdoms**

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Scripture Basic: Romans 13:1-14

Focal: Romans 13:1-8, 11-14

Outline:

## III. What God Expects of the Justified Man (12:1-15:13)

A. In His Direct Relationship to God as a Human Being (12:1-2)

B. As a Spiritually-gifted Member of the Body of Christ (12:3-8)

C. As a Member of Society (12:9-21)

D. In His Relationship to Civil Government (13:1-7)

1. The principle stated: Subjection (13:1a)

2. Why Christians should be in subjection (13:1b-6)

a. Because of the divine origin of civil government (13:1b-2)

b. Because of the divine purpose of civil government (13:3-4)

c. Because of moral necessity (13:5)

d. Because of the principle of consistency (13:6)

3. How Christians should be in subjection (13:7)

a. Taxes on persons and property

b. Custom duties on goods

c. Reverence to high officials

d. Honor to all civil servants

E. The Motivating Principles of Christian Conduct (13:8-14)

1. The obligation of love (13:8-10)

- a. The principle stated (13:8a)
  - b. Reason for this principle: Love fulfills the requirements of the Law (13:8b-10)
2. The approaching second advent of Christ (13:11-14)
- a. Knowledge of the character of the present time (13:11-12a)
  - b. Should result in appropriate conduct (13:12b-14)
    - (1) Viewed as a change of (moral) clothing (13:12b-13)
    - (2) Viewed as an intimate union with Christ (13:14)

Applications:

1. Christians should be the best citizens in any society. This includes:
  - a. Paying taxes
  - b. Serving in the military when needed
  - c. Voting
  - d. Participating in community, state and federal life (including office-holding for some)
  - e. Jury duty
  - f. Proper respect for civil officials (even those of a different party!)
  - g. Etc., etc., etc.
2. There is, of course, a limit to subjection - when government requires an ungodly act (cf. Acts 4:13f., 5:29, Matthew 2:8-12, etc. ).
3. As this age grows darker and evildoers abound, the Christian should draw even closer to his Lord in holy living, awaiting His appearing.