

The Biblical Response to Civil Government and Law Enforcement

Reference: **Romans 13:1-5**

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Christians are responsible to governmental authorities and in the context of this service that includes law enforcement.

PRINCIPLE ONE...God requires _____ to government authorities

verse one, “*Let every soul* (there are no exceptions) ***be subject to the governing authorities...***”

Reference: **I Peter 2:13-14** (see screen)

There are two exceptions to that injunction:

- if government authorities command us to do what God said we _____ then we are under no obligation to submit to that governmental demand.
- if government authorities have said we cannot do what God said we _____ then we are under no obligation to submit to that government restriction

Reference: **Acts 5:27-29** and **42** (see screen)

PRINCIPLE TWO...government authorities are from _____

verse one, “*...For there is **no authority except from God**, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

God is sovereign and that means God has all authority; but, after creation God delegated some of His authority to man. God created three human institutions to exercise some of that delegated divine authority. These are three fundamental authoritative societal units:

- the institution of _____
References: **Genesis 2:24** and **25**; **Ephesians 5:22-32**; etc.
- the institution of the _____
References: the New Testament **epistles**
- the institution of _____
References: **Romans 13:1-7**; **I Peter 2:13-14**; etc.

PRINCIPLE THREE...resistance to government authorities is considered insubordination and _____ against God

verse two, “*Therefore whoever **resists** the authority **resists** the ordinance of God...*”

PRINCIPLE FOUR...resistance to government authorities is

verse two, “*...and those who resist will **bring judgment on themselves.***”

PRINCIPLE FIVE... government authorities _____ societal _____ and _____ societal _____

verse three, “*For rulers **are not a terror** to good works, but **to evil...***”

verse three, “*...Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? (then) **Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.***”

verse four, “*For he (law enforcement’s agent) is **God’s minister** to you for good.*”

PRINCIPLE SIX...government authorities have divine permission to _____ the worst evil doers

verse four, “*... But if you do evil, be afraid; for **he does not bear the sword in vain** for he is **God’s minister**, an **avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.***”

verse five, “*Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake.*”