

Obligations to Others

Alvin York, the most decorated American soldier in World War I, tried to avoid the draft because of his religious convictions. He was a Christian and he thought his allegiance to Jesus Christ freed him from any responsibility to serve his country. Through prayer and study, however, he concluded that a Christian citizen has certain obligations to his or her government.

Many people complain about the government. Do we have to have a government? If so, what is it supposed to do?

This week's lesson deals with the subject of the believer's obligations to others. Specifically, you will discover the Bible's answers to the following questions:

1. What is my responsibility to the government?
2. What is my responsibility to other individuals?

The Believer's Obligations to the Government

Rom. 13:1 The term **higher powers** (literally, those possessing great authority) refers to human governments. How should we relate to the government?

Why?

Where do human governments get their power?

Rom. 13:2 If you disobey the government, what are you actually resisting?

The word **damnation** here refers to the legal verdict and sentence you will receive for breaking the law, not eternal torment in hell. What if the government is ungodly and repressive?

Christians should obey the government as long as doing so does not cause them to violate the clear commands of the Word of God.

Rom. 13:3 Who should be afraid of the government, those who do evil or those who do good?

How should the government treat us if we do good?

Rom. 13:4 "For he is the _____ of _____ to thee for _____. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the _____ of God, a _____ to execute _____ upon him that doeth _____."

Do you realize what you just read? The Bible says the government is God's **minister** (servant) to do good to those who obey the law and to punish evildoers. This is **God's purpose for government**.

Rom. 13:5 What are the two reasons Christians should be subject to the government?

1. _____

2. _____

Rom. 13:6 What should we pay?

The word **tribute** refers to taxes.

Rom. 13:7 "Render therefore to all their _____." What four things are we obligated to give the government?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

The Believer's Obligations to Other Individuals

Rom. 13:8 What's the only thing we should owe others?

This doesn't mean we can never have a car loan or a home mortgage, but as believers we must pay what we owe when it is due.

Rom. 13:9 Paul quoted five of the Ten Commandments. What is one saying that sums up all the commandments?

Rom. 13:10 What is the fulfillment of the Law?

Rom. 13:11-12 Time is running out! In light of this, how should we live?

Rom. 13:13 "Let us walk _____, as in the _____; not in _____ and _____, not in chambering and wantonness (sexual immorality and lust), not in _____ and _____."

Rom. 13:14 Who should we put on?

What must we not make provision for?

Concluding Thoughts: In your own words, describe your obligations toward the government:

In your own words, describe your obligations toward others:

Living out the Gospel involves fulfilling the obligations God has placed upon us. Time is running out; you must get busy right now doing the things you wrote in the spaces above.

Project: Memorize **Romans 13:1**. Fulfill your obligations.