

To Each His Due (Romans 13: 6,7)

- No one likes to pay taxes, or feels kindness toward tax collectors
- Yet this is where Paul ends his teaching on the Christian & civil government
- The first part of this text says, we are to pay taxes and the second part says we are to show honor or give honor to those who are in authority over us (6,7)

I. No One Likes to Pay Taxes

- There are countless cases throughout history where people have resisted authority in this area. Even among Christians there has been much difference

II. Supporting Government through Taxes

- Paul joins the Lord Jesus in saying this is the responsibility of every Christian
- The reason of course is that government is expensive & we benefit by it even if it is a bad government. We should be thankful for its many services
- Armed forces, police forces, fireman, FBI, immigration etc they protect us
- We complain about taxes, but without them government couldn't function, civilization would be impossible, & our lives & property in danger every day

III. Responsible Taxation

- Although the government has the right to tax it has a responsibility to God
 - 1) A Responsible use of tax money: one limitation on government is that it is not to use revenue for luxury or the elevated life style of its representatives
 - Our text clearly teaches that 'authorities' are "God's servants" (7)
 - 2) Confiscatory taxation: another abuse government must guard against is making taxes so high that it steals from its people & thus ruins itself
- The War of Independence was fought over this matter, that is why the early leaders insisted on 'no taxation without representation'

IV Respect & Honor

- 1) The King: The Bible tells us to honor those who are in power (1 Pet 2:13)
- 2) Church officers: those who serve in the church (1 Tim 5: 17; Heb 13: 17)
- 3) Older persons: grossly neglected today & yet the Bible is clear (Lev 19: 32)
- 4) God: above all we are to honor the Trinity (1 Tim 6: 16; John 5:22)

V. The Character of Citizens

- As Christians submit & honor for the glory of God they can affect society