



24:3 Christian Submission to the State

**Romans 13:5–7** (ESV) — 5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

*Because civil authorities are established by God for the purposes stated, we should submit in the Lord to them in everything lawful that they require.*

- Submission
- This means submission to difficult authorities as well
- Submission “in everything lawful”
- What about when a requirement is not “lawful”?

*We should submit not only for fear of punishment but also for the sake of conscience.*

- Motives for Submission (cf Romans 13:4-5)|

*We ought to make requests and prayers for kings and everyone in authority, so that under their rule we may live a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and honesty.*

- **1 Timothy 2:1-2**
- Christians must pray for their leaders.

## **Next Steps**

1. What kind of attitude and actions would we expect to see in ourselves if we are in submission to the government?
2. Why is our submission to government connected to our conscience before God?
3. How are Christians to respond to unlawful requirements? What if the requirements are a mixture of right and wrong?