



24:1 The Authorization of Civil Government

The nature of civil authority (Romans 13:1-4)

God, the supreme Lord and King of the whole world, has ordained civil authorities to be under Him and over the people, for His own glory and the public good. ...

Who is ultimately in charge?

- God is “the supreme Lord and King of the whole world”

God has given us civil authority

- God has “ordained civil authority.”
- Civil authority is subject to God (“Under Him”)
- Civil authority is “over the people”
- What should the Christian’s attitude be toward God-ordained authority?
- Civil authority is “for his own glory”
- Civil authority is for the “public good.”

...For this purpose He has armed them with the power of the sword, to defend and encourage those who do good and to punish evildoers.

God has given civil government the power of the sword

- What does the sword represent?

- The purpose of the sword

Next Steps

1. How does civil government relate to God?
2. Why is civil government described as being for the “public good”?
3. What should a Christian’s attitude be toward civil government? What motivates that attitude?
4. How do you struggle to glorify God in your attitude toward civil government? Pray for the Lord’s help.