

## **God's Strange Servants**

*Ray Stedman*

### I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 13:1-7.
- B. The text deals with a Christian and his relationship with the government.

### II. We must think of the government as a servant of God.

- A. You cannot establish which form of government is the most God-honored form since God in the Scripture brings about several forms for different people.
- B. Do not think of any form of government as opposed to God.
- C. Some governments are better suited for certain peoples than others.
- D. Not only are the forms of government brought about by God, but also the people occupying the office.
  - 1. Sometimes, we are sent good men to rule.
  - 2. Other times we are sent bad men to rule as punishment.
  - 3. Sometimes, God picks the lowliest of men and puts them in power.

### III. If God is behind government then those opposing government oppose God.

- A. Governments have a God-given right to oppose those who would overthrow them.
- B. There are limits to the power of government though—Caesar has no right to command the worship of man.
- C. Believers are to accept legitimate functions of government.
  - 1. Governments are to protect us from evil—the security of the people.
  - 2. Governments are for the commanding of good—recognizing good, providing for the common defense and providing for common needs.
- D. The powers of government.
  - 1. Force—government even has the right to take one's life.
  - 2. Taxing.
- E. It is right to submit to the authority because of consequence and conscience.

1. We ought to give everyone what we owe him or her.
2. We need to have a proper attitude about these matters—a positive one.

**Application questions:**

1. How can an evil government properly be called God's servant?

---

---

2. Why is a democracy not necessarily the right form of government?

---

---

3. When have you failed to obey the government? Was this disobedience proper in light of Scripture?

---

---