

1. Christians, especially, should be examples of obedience to the government's authority and the laws that it upholds.
2. The first reason that Paul gives us that we must submit ourselves to the government's authority is that all governments have been instituted by God.
3. The second reason that Paul gives us that we must submit ourselves to the government's authority is that anyone who resists the government by breaking the law is resisting God Himself and what He has appointed. Those who resist fall rightfully under the judgment of God.
4. The third reason that Paul gives us that we must submit ourselves to the government's authority is that we should seek the approval of those in authority because they are a servant of God working for our good.
5. The fourth reason that Paul gives us that we must submit ourselves to the government's authority is that the authorities have physical means of enforcing the laws that they are provided by God Himself to carry out His wrath on those who do wrong.
6. The fifth and final reason that Paul gives us that we must submit ourselves to the government's authority is for the sake of our conscience before God.
7. Paul also gives us the reason why we pay taxes: The government is appointed by God for the good of its people. God designs government itself for a good purpose. This is why we pay taxes: For God's good purpose.
8. So, based on all these reasons, God commands all Christians to pay everything they owe, whether taxes to the government or respect and honor to the authorities.

### Application

1. Obey and submit yourselves, as Christians, the people of God, to the laws of the land.
2. Honestly and legally pay all the taxes that are due to the government.
3. Respect all those in authority, including police and even politicians you disagree with.

**1 Peter 2:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. <sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. <sup>17</sup> Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

**John 19:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.

**Titus 3:1-3**

<sup>3</sup> Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup> to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. <sup>3</sup> For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

**Matthew 22:15-22**

<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. <sup>16</sup> And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. <sup>17</sup> Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" <sup>18</sup> But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" <sup>21</sup> They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." <sup>22</sup> When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

**1 Timothy 2:1-2**

Rev. Richard Schwartz  
What God Has Appointed: The Government Does Not Bear The Sword In Vain  
Romans 13:1-7

**2** First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.