

Christian World View

Church & State

the biblical position

The Duty of Citizens

Romans 13:1-7

(1) Let every person *[soul]* be in subjection to the governing *[exalted, lifted up]* authorities . For there is no authority except from *[by]* God, and those which exist are established by God. (2) Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

(3) For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior *[morally good works]*, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good *[morally good]* and you will have praise from the same; (4) for it is a minister *[servant, deacon]* of God to you for good *[morally good]*. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister *[servant, deacon]* of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

(5) Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for the sake of conscience. (6) For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants *[public worker]* of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. (7) Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

The Duty of Citizens

Romans 13:1-7

- ① This passage is about individual Christians → dual citizenship
a citizen of the kingdom of God & a citizen of a nation
- ② This passage is about the divine model for government and citizens
the duty of government & the duty of Christian citizens
- ③ This passage does not deal with the sinful breakdown of the model
an evil government or rebellious citizens
comparison: Ephesians 5 and the divine model for marriage
- ④ This passage does not reveal any exceptions for citizens
(–) whatever God prohibits in Scripture Daniel's friends and idolatry
(+) whatever God commands in Scripture Daniel and prayer
"We must obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29 Acts 4:19-20
- ⑤ This passage is not about church and state

The Duty of Citizens

1 Peter 2:13-17

(13) Submit yourselves [*Be submissive*] [$\alpha!$] for the Lord's sake to every human institution: whether to a king as the one in authority; (14) or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. (15) For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

(16) Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves [*δοῦλος*] of God. (17) Honor [$\alpha!$] all men; love [$\pi!$] the brotherhood, fear [$\pi!$] God, honor [$\pi!$] the king.

The Authority of God

the spheres of authority with rights and duties



person

Genesis 1-2
Adam

family

Genesis 2
Adam & Eve

state

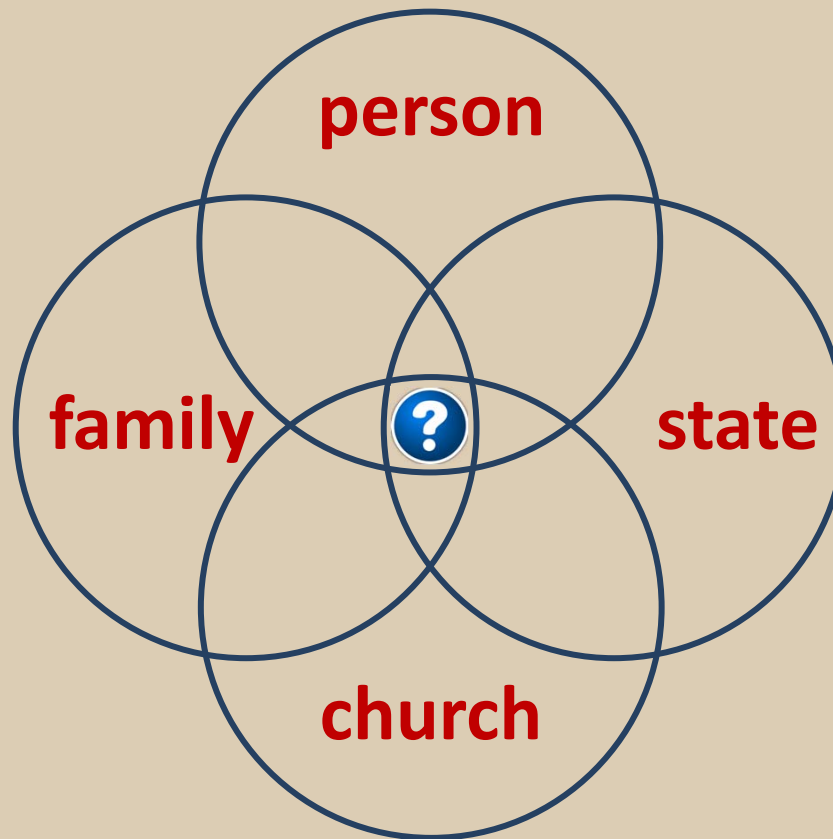
Genesis 11
Babel

church

Acts 2
Pentecost

The Authority of God

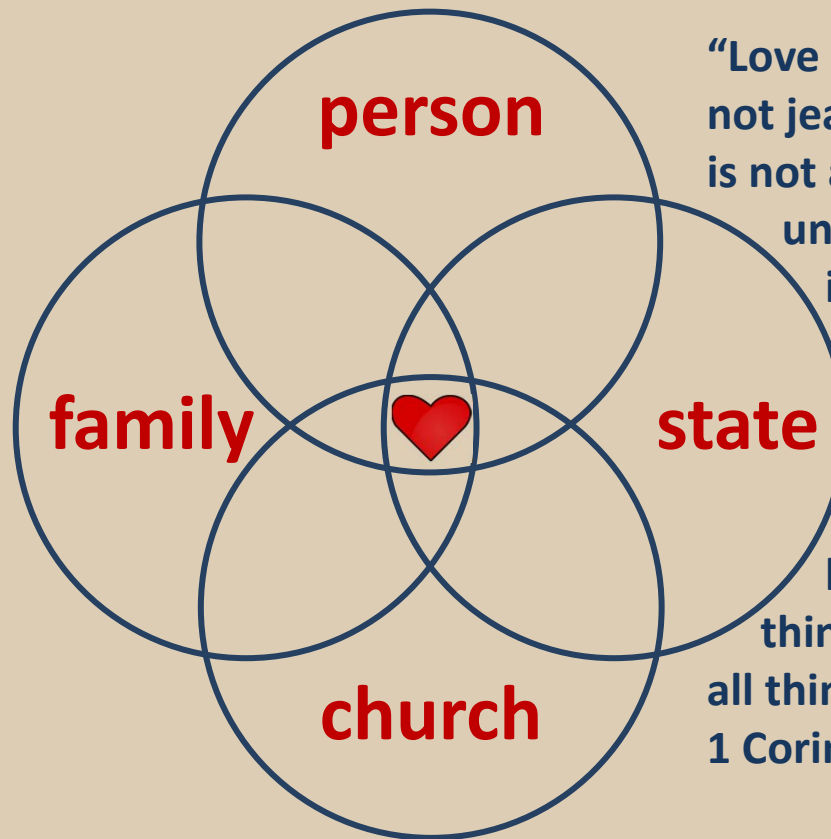
the function of the spheres of authority



The Authority of God

the function of the spheres of authority

“If possible, as far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.”
Romans 12:18



“Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails; ...”
1 Corinthians. 13:4-8