

The 5th Commandment and Civil Authorities

The Purpose of Civil Government

Q: What is the **purpose** of civil government?

A1: The civil government is God's _____ of justice (Rom 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17)

- Governing authorities are God's deacon (Rom 13:4, 6)
 - God is sovereign (Creator, Sustainer, Governor)
 - The first family: Adam and Eve

Q: What do governing authorities exist to do?

(1) Administer _____

(2) _____ the weak (Ps 92; Dan 4:27)

(3) _____ the criminal (1 Thess 4:1-8; Eccl. 8:10-13)

(4) _____ civic good (1 Sam 8:10-18; 12:1-5; Deut 16:18-20; Ps 26:9; 15:27; 17:23; Isa 33:15-16; Ezek 22:6-13; Amos 5:12; Hab 1:1)

(5) _____ taxes

What are some biblical principles of justice?

Who are "the weak" in our society?

What are ways government punishes unduly?

What are ways that government is soft on criminals?

What are examples of Christians undermining God's means of administering his wrath through civil authorities?

What are examples of the "common civic good"?

What are ways government could approve the "common good"?

How Civil Government Deacons Justice

Q: How does civil government minister God's justice?

A1: The civil government wisely _____ God's standard of justice (Rom 13:1-7)

• By what _____ ?

1. Standard option #1: God

• Recall what we know about God (Rom 13:1-5; Mal 3:5-7; Ps 111:7; Deut 32:4):

• God is _____ to as the authority of justice (Ex 18:15-16; Deut 17:8ff)

2. Standard option #2: Mankind

- What happens when mankind tries to be the source of the standard (Genesis 3)?

• Sources of God's revealed Law

1. _____ revelation: Natural Law

2. _____ revelation: Scripture

God provides the standard of what is the civil good. What are the blessings of this?

What are other problems with mankind being the source of laws? What is the standard of good and bad in Romans 13?

Where does respect for human life originate? What kinds of laws should be on the books?
