





**God &**

**Government**

Part 2

# **The Purpose of Civil Government**

**Genesis 9:5 - 6**

**Romans 13**

**1 Peter 2:13 - 14**

# **The Role of Civil Government**

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## **1. Restrain Evil & Encourage Good**

## Genesis 6:5 - 13

<sup>5</sup> The LORD saw how great man's *wickedness* on the earth had become, and that *every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil* all the time. <sup>6</sup> The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. <sup>7</sup> So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them." <sup>8</sup> But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD . . .

## Genesis 6:5 - 13

<sup>11</sup> Now the earth was *corrupt* in God's sight and was *full of violence*. <sup>12</sup> God saw how *corrupt* the earth had become, for all the people on earth had *corrupted their ways*. <sup>13</sup> So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is *filled with violence* because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth."

# The Role of Civil Government

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## 1. Restrain Evil & Encourage Good

### Genesis 9:5 – 6

<sup>5</sup> And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man.

<sup>6</sup> “Whoever sheds the blood of man, *by man* shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.”

## Romans 13:1 – 7

<sup>1</sup> Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.



## Romans 13:1 – 7

<sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is right, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup> for he is God's servant for your good.

## Romans 13:1 – 7

But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

## Romans 13:1 – 7

<sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

# **The Role of Civil Government**

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## **1. Restrain Evil & Encourage Good**

**Genesis 9:5 – 6**

**Romans 13:1 – 7**

1. God has appointed the authorities that have the power to govern. (v. 1 & 2)

2. Civil authorities are appointed by God to be a “terror to bad conduct.” (v. 3)

# **The Role of Civil Government**

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## **1. Restrain Evil & Encourage Good**

**Genesis 9:5 – 6**

**Romans 13:1 – 7**

3. Civil authorities are appointed by God to encourage good conduct – promote the general welfare of the people. (v. 3)

4. Civil authorities serve God's purposes . . . i.e. they are the tools he has chosen to use to restrain evil. (v. 4 & 6)

# **The Role of Civil Government**

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## **1. Restrain Evil & Encourage Good**

**Genesis 9:5 – 6**

**Romans 13:1 – 7**

5. When civil authorities/government function the way God intended (i.e. restrain evil & reward good) we should commend and encourage them because they are acting as “ministers of God.”

6. Civil authorities are “agents of punishment” when they execute God’s wrath on wrongdoers.  
(v. 4).

# **The Role of Civil Government**

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## **1. Restrain Evil & Encourage Good**

**Genesis 9:5 – 6**

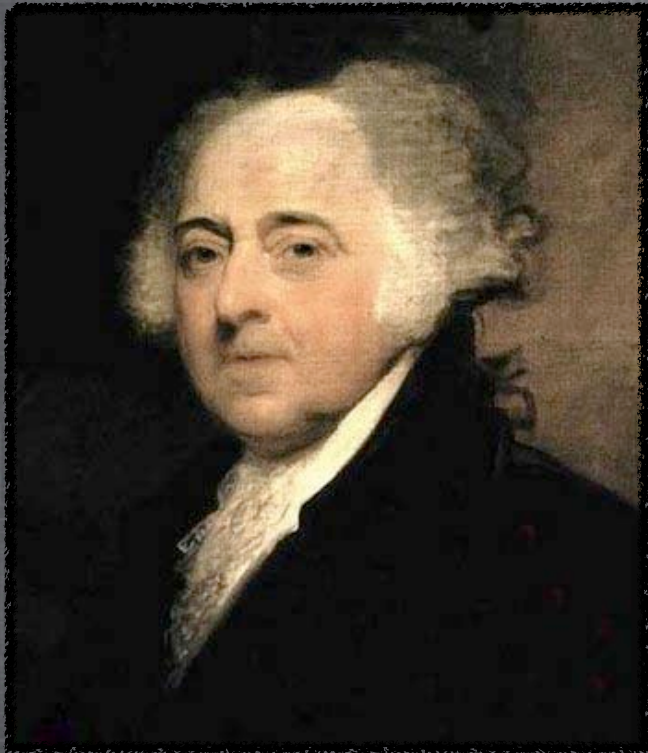
**Romans 13:1 – 7**

**1 Peter 2:13 - 14**

<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.

**Principle:** If we fail to govern ourselves, a larger, more powerful force exert will control for us.

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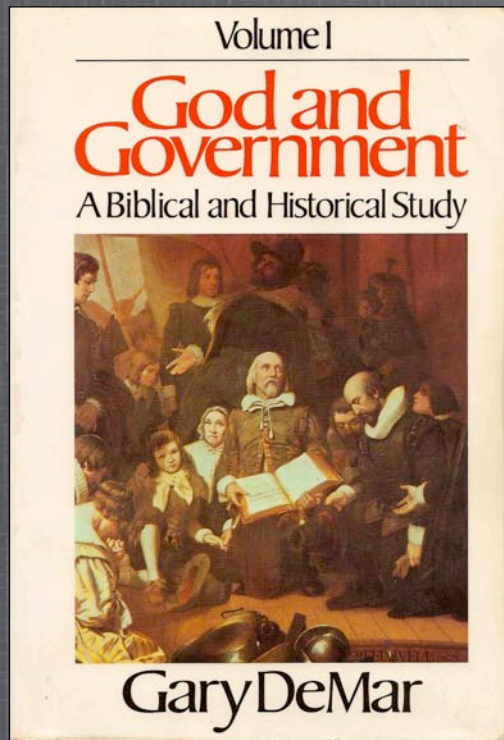


“Our Constitution was made only for *moral* and *religious* people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”



**Principle:** If we fail to govern ourselves, a larger, more powerful force exert will control for us.

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“If we neglect our personal governing responsibility, then we can expect the state to assume the role of all other legitimate governments . . .”

# **The Role of Civil Government**

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## **2. Civil government should uphold justice and defend the weak**

Psalm 82:2 – 4

<sup>2</sup> “How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? <sup>3</sup> Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. <sup>4</sup> Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

# **The Role of Civil Government**

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## **3. Civil Government Should Deter Crime by Carrying Out Swift Punishment**

Ecclesiastes 8:11

When a crime is not punished quickly,  
people feel it is safe to do wrong. (NLT)

Deuteronomy 21:18 – 21

<sup>18</sup> If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, <sup>19</sup> his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. <sup>20</sup> They shall say to the elders, “This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a profligate and a drunkard.” <sup>21</sup> Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.

# **The Role of Civil Government**

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**3. Civil Government Should Deter Crime  
by Carrying Out Swift Punishment**

# **The Role of Civil Government**

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**4. Civil Governments are responsible to defend their people from attacks by other nations**

Deuteronomy 28:7 & 25

<sup>7</sup> “The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.”

## Deuteronomy 20: 1 - 4

<sup>1</sup> When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you. <sup>2</sup> When you are about to go into battle, the priest shall come forward and address the army.

## Deuteronomy 20: 1 - 4

<sup>3</sup> He shall say: “Hear, O Israel, today you are going into battle against your enemies. Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not be terrified or give way to panic before them. <sup>4</sup> For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.”



# Difficult Questions

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Does Exodus 20:13 prohibit taking a human life under any circumstance?

“Murder” = ratsakh

It is never used to refer to killing in war.

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It is not used to refer to capital punishment.

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It is the “unlawful killing of another human being or causing a human death through carelessness or negligence.

# Difficult Questions

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What about “turning the other cheek”?

Matthew 5:38 - 39

<sup>38</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ <sup>39</sup> But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

# Difficult Questions

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What about “turning the other cheek”?

Matthew 5:38 - 39

Jesus is not addressing governments or their leaders in this verse . . . he is talking to individuals about how they deal with other individuals . . . especially people who insult them.

# Difficult Questions

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“Is it ever right for Christians to use lethal force to defend themselves, their

*Escape if you can*

*Physically restrain attacker*

*Deadly force as a last resort*

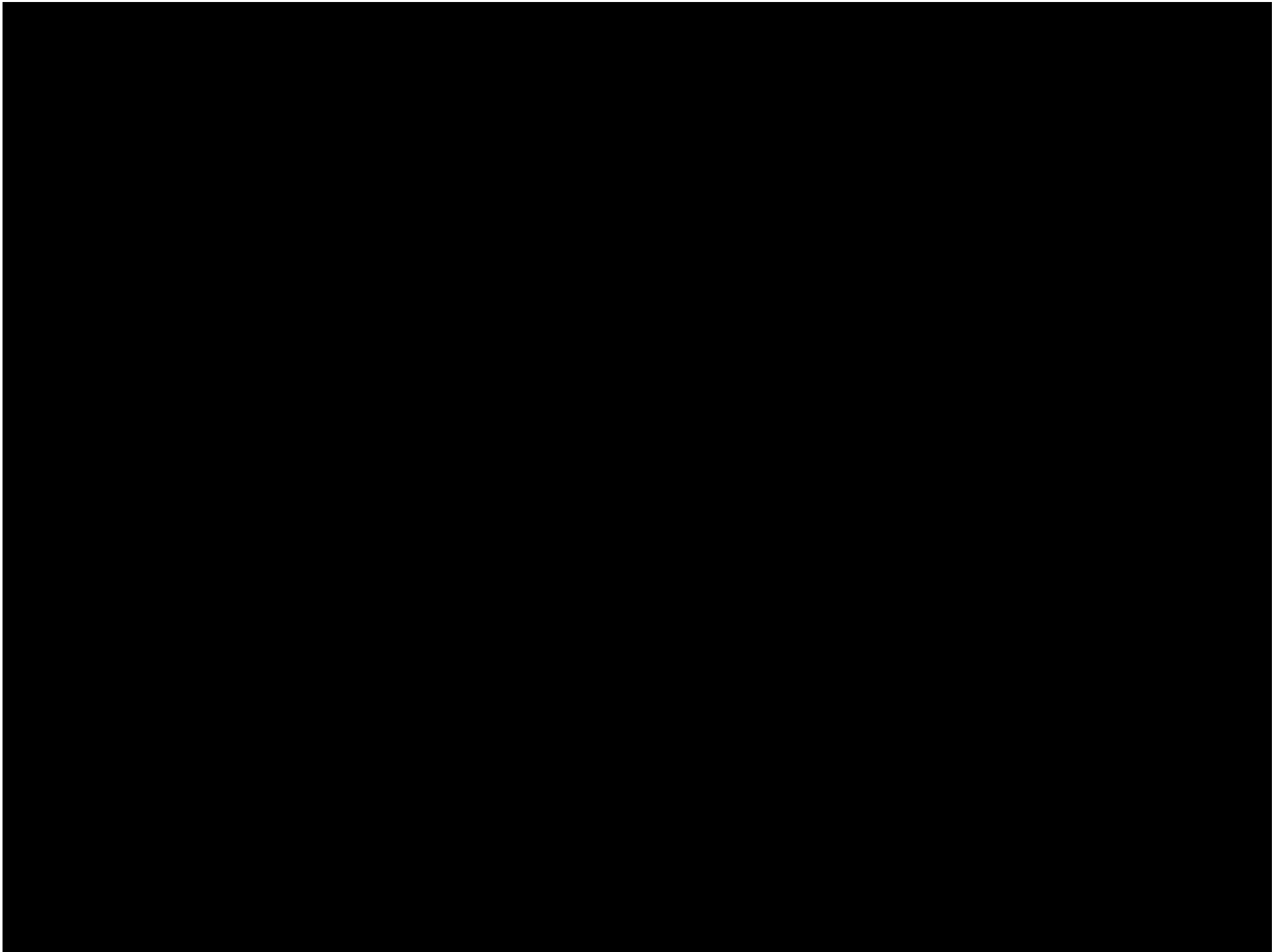
**to defend** yourself, your family, and your property against physical attack.

Matthew 22:39

## Luke 22:36 – 38

<sup>36</sup> He said to them, “But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and *if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one.* <sup>37</sup> It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”

<sup>38</sup> The disciples said, “See, Lord, here are two swords.” “That is enough,” he replied.



# **Take-aways**

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1. Recognize human, civil government as a necessity established by God to protect people living in a fallen, dangerous world.

**Thank God** for them and **pray** that they will fulfill God's purpose and allow us to "live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." – 1 Timothy 2:2

# Take-aways

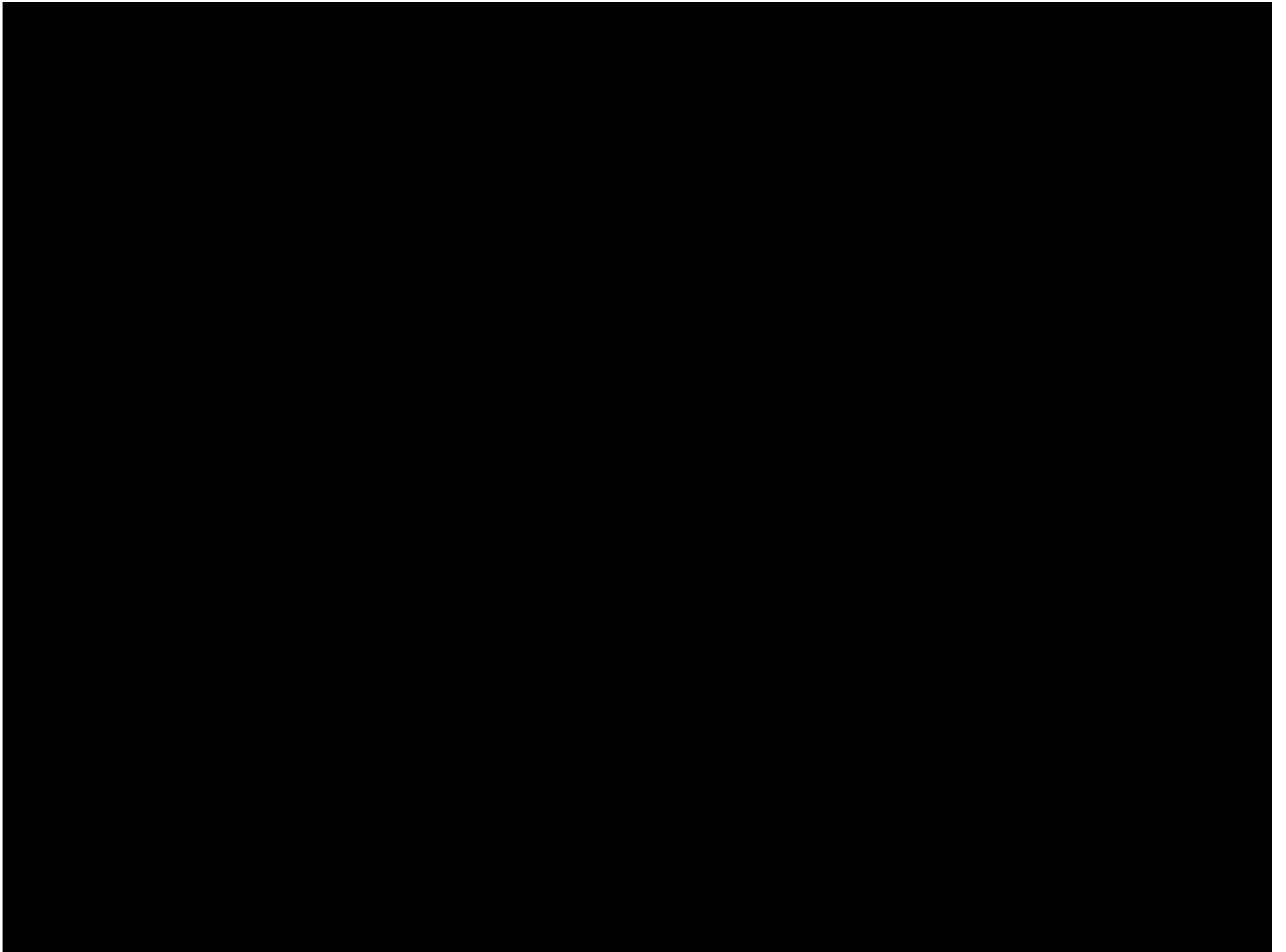
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2. Be the kind of person who doesn't have any reason to fear the authorities.

Romans 13:13

Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then **do what is right** and he will commend you.





# Take-aways

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## 3. Be an informed citizen.

Look for and vote for people who will serve the people and seek the good of the people rather than their own self-interests.

