

# SERMON NOTES (audio/notes are online @ HBChurch.net)



Sermon: **Social Justice EXPOSED – Romans 12:19 – 13:7**

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**Romans 12:19** Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God's wrath, because it is written, Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord. **20** But If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. For in so doing you will be heaping fiery coals on his head. **21** Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.

**Romans 13:1** - Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God. **2** So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves. **3** For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have its approval. **4** For it is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason. For it is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong. **5** Therefore, you must submit, not only because of wrath but also because of your conscience. **6** And for this reason you pay taxes, since the authorities are God's servants, continually attending to these tasks. **7** Pay your obligations to everyone: taxes to those you owe taxes, tolls to those you owe tolls, respect to those you owe respect, and honor to those you owe honor.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE:**

1. Social Justice is not \_\_\_\_\_ justice.
2. Any gap between groups of people is \_\_\_\_\_ and must be \_\_\_\_\_. (Social Justice)
3. Social Justice Warriors see people as either good or evil; the *haves* are \_\_\_\_\_ and the *have-nots* are \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Social Justice is neither \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. It is \_\_\_\_\_.

## **JUSTICE FOR ALL:**

- A. Government is supposed to represent God's \_\_\_\_\_ of justice, wisdom, and power.
- B. God created the concept of government to be an \_\_\_\_\_ part of the human experience.
- C. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the basis for just law and civil order.
- D. Christians don't just have a \_\_\_\_\_ to vote, but a \_\_\_\_\_ to be active in all levels of government.

## **IF GOVERNMENT WORKS CORRECTLY...**

1. Evil will be \_\_\_\_\_. Romans 13:3
2. Good will be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Romans 13:4a
3. Justice will \_\_\_\_\_. Romans 13:4

HBChurch cares about you & our city. If you would like talk to a pastor or counselor, we would be happy to meet you before you leave today. Also, you can email Pastor Jason at [44jason@gmail.com](mailto:44jason@gmail.com). Check out [HBChurch.net](http://HBChurch.net) for more info.

## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Please Complete These Question *BEFORE* Arriving at Your Life Group

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU:** Describe the first time that you went to the polls and voted? Where you alone? What was the experience like? How is it the same or different these days when you vote?

**QUICK REVIEW:** Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged or confused you? What was the one big thing that blessed you?

**DIGGING DEEPER:** 1. Read **1 Peter 2:13** - *Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme* **14** *or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.*

**15** *For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.*

**16** *Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. (ESV)*

a. According to 1Peter 2:14, what are the two primary responsibilities of government?

b. How can government create a climate where good living is rewarded?

c. How does "doing good" put to silence the ignorance of foolish people?

2. The founders of America based the design of our government on the principles taught in the Bible. Many scholarly books are available to learn more about this issue. For today, read and consider the following:

- a) **A written constitution** (covenant) based on the revealed Word of God (Exodus 20; Deut. 5-8; John 19:11). A Biblical constitution will clearly define and restrict the power of government, and its abuse by rulers. It must be written so that it is specific, clear and permanent (Psalm 19:7-10).
- b) **A separation of powers** and functions into three branches of civil government: executive (King), legislative (Council) and judicial (elders or judges in each community). (Isaiah 33:22; Exodus 23:1-3; 2 Chron. 19:5-7. Elected legislators Deut. 1:13-17; Exodus 18:21. Elected executive ruler Deuteronomy 17:16; 1 Chronicles 11:3)
- c) **Judiciary principles for fair trials** are in Deut. 19:15-19: (i) one is innocent until proven guilty, (ii) the right to due process of law, (iii) witnesses must personally confront the accused, (iv) a matter must be established by two or three witnesses, and (v) judges must be impartial.
- d) **A decentralized state** with most responsibilities and powers resting on the local government, the family and the individual (Exodus 24:1; Deuteronomy 1:13-17, Acts 17:26). Because power corrupts, it is wise to limit and divide the powers of civil government in a system of checks and balances.
- e) **A citizen's army** (militia) made up of trained citizens who have the right and duty to bear arms for the defense of their home and family, community and nation (Numbers 1:2-3; Judges 3:2; Exodus 22:2; Deut. 20:1-4; Nehemiah 4:14). Any attempt to prohibit the right of an individual to bear arms was unbiblical and was a pagan attempt to centralize (usurp) excessive power (Judges 5:8; 1 Sam. 13:19-22).
- f) **A free market economy** based on the private ownership of property (Exodus 20:15,17; Deut. 19:14) and individual free enterprise (Eccl 5:19; Prov. 10:2-4; 12:24; 13:4,11; 1 Thess. 3:10). Any taxation of 10% or higher was defined as oppression (1 Samuel 8:10-18), and any taxation of property, or of inheritance, was strictly forbidden! (1 Kings 21:3). Institutions and individuals involved in the full-time service of the Lord were not allowed to be taxed (Ezra 7:23,24). Any unequal or progressive system of taxation was expressly forbidden (Ex. 30:14-15; Leviticus 19:15).

**APPLICATION:** Ask the Lord to give us all wisdom to fulfill Genesis 1:26-28. Pray for our local, state, and federal governments. Pray for church. Pray for marriages and families in our church, the youth and children.