

Civics Lessons from the Source

Romans 13:1-7

Part Two:
*Rights, Duties,
and Responses*



Romans 13:1-3

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities.

For there is no authority except from God,
and those which exist are established by God.

Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed
the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed
will receive condemnation upon themselves.

For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior,
but for evil.

Romans 13:3-4

Do you want to have no fear of authority?
Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;
for it is a minister of God to you for good.
But if you do what is evil, be afraid;
for it does not bear the sword for nothing;
for it is a minister of God, an avenger
who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

Romans 13:5-7

Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection,
not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.

For because of this you also pay taxes,
for rulers are servants of God,
devoting themselves to this very thing.

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.

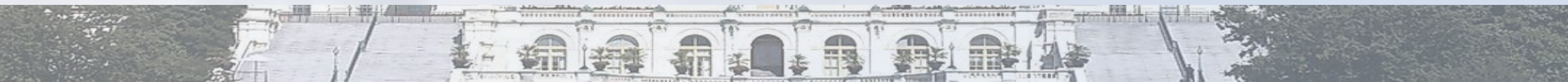
Review from Last Week

All authority is from God,
and only His authority is absolute.

God delegates authority in spheres:
individuals, families, churches, governments, etc.

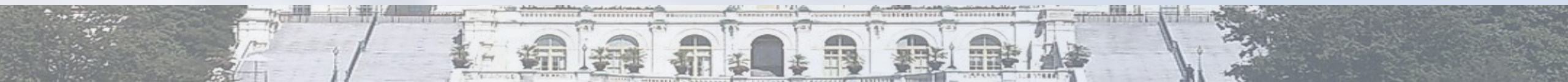
All authorities are servants of God and
must learn to obey *Him* as their Authority.

Christ is King, and we can rest in Him.



Main Point

It is critical that we understand human rights, governmental duties, and our responses to them; because governing authorities are God's servants and opposition to them is opposition to Him.





Civics from the Source

What about human rights?

Lessons on Rights

Human rights are derived from God.

Where do Human Rights Come From?

“In the beginning, God...”

God

Where do Human Rights Come From?

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image,
according to Our likeness.”

Creation in God's Image

God

This is the ultimate foundation of rights!

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image,
according to Our likeness.”

Creation in God’s Image

God

Lessons on Rights

Human rights are derived from God.
Human rights are discerned in His Law.

Remember, God created us to represent
Him in this world by imitation.

Creation in God's Image

God

We learn how from God's law.

“Be fruitful and multiply” “Be holy as I am holy”

“You shall not murder”

God's Moral Law

Creation in God's Image

God

God's law teaches us how to imitate Him and thereby helps us to discern the rights necessary for the fulfillment of our purpose.

Human rights sit on these foundations!

Human Rights

God's Moral Law

Creation in God's Image

God

What happens if these foundations are discarded?

Human Rights

God's Moral Law

Slavery

Creation in God's Image

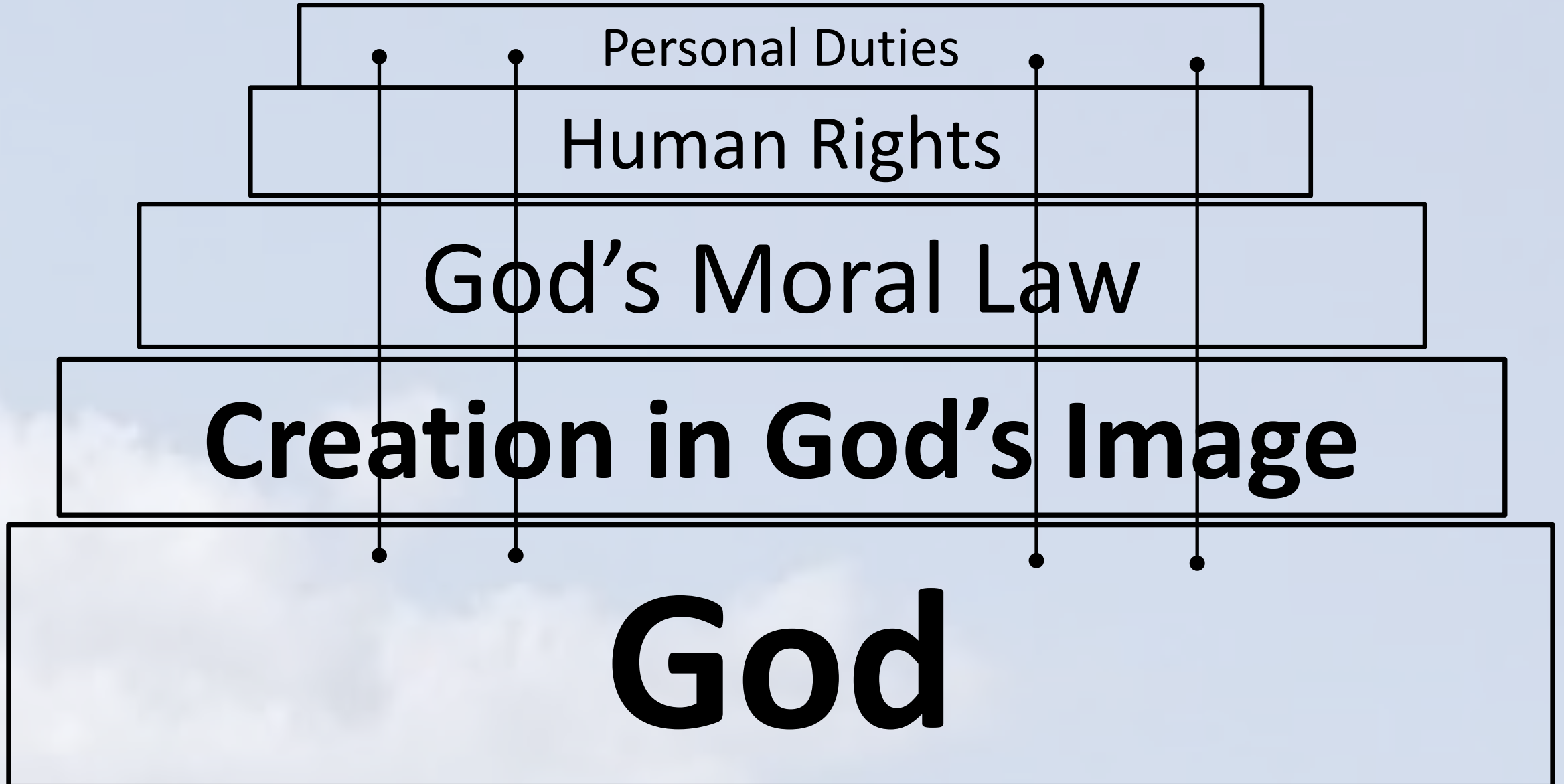
God

Human rights have no foundation
apart from God and His creation
of mankind in His image,
and these rights will not be rightly
understood apart from God's law!

Lessons on Rights

Human rights are derived from God.
Human rights are discerned in His Law.
Human rights are tied to human duties.

How are rights tied to duties?



Human rights do not exist for the purpose of autonomous self-indulgence but for the freedom to fulfill our duties as God's representatives in this world.

Understanding this will keep us from the cliffs of insanity!

An Example

• Duty = Speak truth to one another

Human Right = Freedom of Speech

God's Law = Tell the truth

Godly Quality = Truth Telling

Break the bonds of duty and law?

Duty = Speak truth to one another

Human Right = Freedom of Speech

God's Law = Tell the truth

Godly Quality, Truth Telling

A Scriptural Case Study

Ephesians 4:28

He who steals must steal no longer;
but rather he must labor,
performing with his own hands what is good, so that
he will have something to share with one who has need.

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Image Bearing Qualities = Industry, Generosity

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Duty = Provide for your family and
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**Duty = Provide for your family and
share with others.**

The Duty Re-Stated

1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his own,
and especially for those of his household,
he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Can he fulfill this duty to provide
for his own if he is denied his life
or his liberty or his property?

If we give up our rights, we give
up the freedoms necessary for
the fulfillment of our duties!



Civics from the Source

What about human rights?

What about the government's duty?

What about governmental duty?

Governing authorities have a duty to properly identify human rights and then to protect and defend them against evil.

Remember that governing
authorities are servants of God
for good as He defines it.



Romans 13:3-4

Do you want to have no fear of authority?
Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;
for **it is a servant of God** to you **for good**.

Remember that they are
to praise the good.

Romans 13:3-4

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Do you want to have no fear of authority?

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**Remember that they are
to punish what is evil.**

Romans 13:3-4

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But if you do what is evil, be afraid;

**for it does not bear the sword for nothing;
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who brings wrath on the one who
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who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

Is it not evil to kill a man
or rob a man or forbid a man to
proclaim that which is true?

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who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

Does not government have a duty
to preserve and protect the rights that
ensure that men are not murdered,
robbed, or muzzled?

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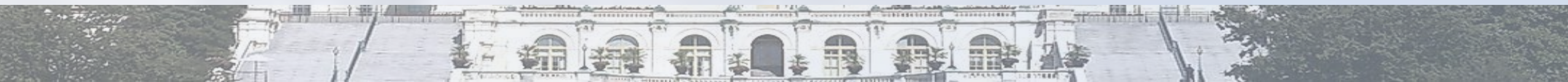
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to preserve and protect the rights that
ensure that men are not murdered,
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Bear in Mind...

There is a radical difference
between a government that believes
its duty is to protect your life
and a government that believes its
duty is to protect *your right* to life.



Does this connect with our founding?

Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are **endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights**, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men...

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Civics from the Source

What about human rights?

What about the government's duty?

What are we taught about our
responses to government?

Lessons on Submission

All people have a duty to submit to governing authorities.

Romans 13:1

Every person is to be in subjection
to the governing authorities.

For there is no authority except from God,
and those which exist are established by God.

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Every person is to be in subjection
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Every soul is to be in subjection
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Every soul is to be in subjection
to the governing authorities.

For there is no authority except from God,
and those which exist are established by God.

Paul's use of the word "soul" is
meant to emphasize the *universality*
of the command:

Every human being!

How do we submit?

Romans 13:7

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.

Our *rendering* is not a mere matter
of paying the bill but is a matter
of respect and honor from the heart.

Lessons on Submission

All people have a duty to submit to governing authorities.

Opposition to government is
opposition to God.

Romans 13:2

Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

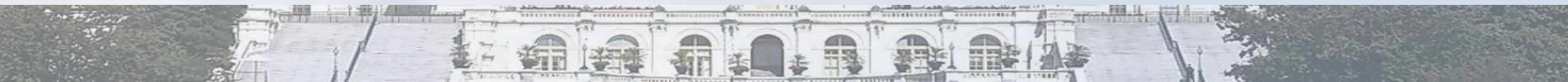
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Therefore whoever resists authority **has opposed**
the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed
will receive condemnation upon themselves.

A persistent and willful attitude of opposition to God's appointed authorities is really an attitude of opposition to God Himself.



Lessons on Submission

All people have a duty to submit to governing authorities.

Opposition to government is opposition to God.

Submission *may* require resistance.

Romans 13:1

Every person is to subject himself
to the governing authorities.

For there is no authority except from God,
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For **there is no authority except from God,**
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Every person is to subject himself
to the governing authorities.

For **there is no authority except from God**,
and those which exist are established by God.

Because God is the ultimate authority,
subjecting oneself to human authorities
is ***not*** equivalent to obeying them.

You can submit yourself while resisting.

Acts 4:19

But Peter and John answered and said to them,
“Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you
rather than to God, you be the judge.”

Acts 5:29

But Peter and the apostles answered,
“We must obey God rather than men.”

**While maintaining an attitude of submission,
they understood their duty to resist.**

When do we have a duty to resist?

When the authority commands what God forbids.

When the authority forbids what God commands.



When *might* we have a duty to resist?

When the authority commands something that is not theirs to command.

When the authority is breaking the law of the land.

Resistance should only take place at the point of conflict.



Godly resistance to governing
authorities will lead us to bear
the consequences gladly.



Hebrews 10:32-34

But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.

For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.

Know your better possession!

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Conclusions:

We are to serve Jesus by responding to governing authorities in a manner that shines light on the glory of His gospel.

The better you know your
“better and lasting possession”,
the better you will serve Christ
in this corrupt world.