



Exploring the Intersection of Faith & Politics

#2: *"The Role of the State"*

Goal: to examine the role of civil government and the Christian's relationship to it.

Open: *Try to figure out who in your group has voted in the MOST number of Presidential elections. The winner should get a prize.*

Dig: Romans 13:1-7

- Describe how God set up the "government" in the beginning... in Eden. How did God intend for mankind to be governed?
- What does it mean that God has "established" every authority? Do you think God approved of the Nazis?
- It has been said that our nation is a "nation of laws." How do governments enforce those laws? (hint: vs. 4)
- What does it mean that government "does not bear the sword for nothing"?
- In what way are governments & authorities "God's servants"?

Discuss:

- Compare this passage with Acts 5:27-32. What's the difference between submitting to the authorities and unconditionally obeying them?
- When might it be okay to "rebel" against the authorities? Is there ever a place for civil disobedience?
- What good can government do?

- What can't government do? Are there limits?
- According to the lesson this morning... what is the #1 issue that every American faces? What is the solution and who has it?

Additional Verses: Luke 22:25-26; Matt 28:18; John 19:11

Prayer... *"how do we need to pray tonight?"*