

1. THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS GOVERNMENT

1. The duty of submission to constituted authority.
 1. Government is of God. Rom. 13:1; 1 Peter 2:13,14
 2. The form of government does not affect the duty of obedience. FORMS OF GOVERNMENT:
 - 1a. Monarchies: Absolute; Limited. Supreme Ruler.
 - 2b. Oligarchic: Power vested in a few. Ruled by few
 - 3c. Republic: Sovereign power the electorate. Is exercised by representatives elected by the electorate.
3. There are limits to this obedience, but Paul does not here state them. Examples:
 - 1a. Peters answer to the rulers and elders. Acts 4:7-9; 19, 20
 - 2a. Peter and the other apostles answered and said "We ought to obey God rather than men."
Acts 5:29.

2. OBLIGATIONS OF CHRISTIANS TO GOVERNMENT AND TO SOCIETY IN GENERAL.

1. "Be ready to every good work." Encourage good government.
2. "To speak evil of no man." *James 4:11*
 1. If the evil we speak of others is false: Slanderers
 2. If it is true; we sin against charity.
 3. Speaking evil of others speaks of a malignant spirit
3. "No brawlers." Such a disposition mars the influence
4. "But gentle." Forbearing; giving way, taking wrong with out retaliation.
5. "Showing all meekness to all men." - *mild of temper - long suffering*
 1. The power of meekness. Num. 12:3
 2. Meekness the fruit of the spirit. Gal. 5:22,23
 3. Meekness precious in God's sight. 1 Pet. 3:4
 4. Meekness necessary to Christian walk. Eph.4:1-3
 5. Meekness in restoring the erring. Gal.6:1
6. OUR OBLIGATIONS TO SOCIETY IN GENERAL.
 1. USEFULNESS: "be ready to every good work."
 2. CHARITABLENESS: "Speak evil of no man. Not quarrel some, but mild, placable, gentle."
 3. COURTESY: "To be no brawler," Contentious.
Courtesy is our duty; our dignity.

Patient under injury

