

# Christ-Centered Citizenship 1

## The Origins and Purposes of Human Government

### **1. God is the True Sovereign and Ruler of the Universe.**

*Psalm 22:28*

For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

**God ordained all human government for the good of man . . .**

*Romans 13:1, 3–4*

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. . . . 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 good*, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant *for your good*. 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.

**. . . whom God made in his image.**

*Genesis 1:27*

So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

**2. When Adam and Eve fell into sin, the perfection of God's creation was poisoned through their rebellion, bringing death, degradation and chaos.**

***Death, beginning with the spiritual death of Adam and Eve, invaded God's created realm:***

Genesis 2:16-17 (ESV)

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 3:19 (ESV)

19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Genesis 4:8 (ESV)

8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

**3. God declared His Laws, and instituted human government to enforce laws based upon His Divine Laws in order to accomplish the following purposes:**

[a] the commendation of *good*,

[b] the punishment of *evil*,

[c] the maintenance of *peace*, and

[d] the protection of the *oppressed*.

1 Peter 2:13-14

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him *to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.*

1 Timothy 2:1-2

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

Isaiah 10:1-2

Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees,  
and the writers who keep writing oppression,  
to turn aside the needy from justice  
and to rob the poor of my people of their right,  
that widows may be their spoil,  
and that they may make the fatherless their prey!