



**Changing The Things That Do Not Work (Division, Part 2)**  
(Face The Dangers of a Divided Government)

November 14, 2021

**Current Series Summary: Change What Does Not Work**

1. Face the Weaknesses in a Divided Kingdom (**Division and strife are contagious**)
2. **Face the Dangers of a Divided Government (When government divides, we all lose)**
3. Embrace the Benefits of Being Thankful (**Thanksgiving 2021**)
4. Embrace the Benefits of Good Thinking and Avoiding Division

**Series Text: Matthew 12:25-26 (NIV)**

- 25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “**Every kingdom** divided against itself will be **ruined**, and **every city or household** divided against itself will not stand. **26 If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself.** How then can his kingdom stand?”

**Big Thought:** When the government divides, we all lose. We become a house divided that Jesus said, “will not stand.” It is in our best interests to find ways to get along. This will require compromise and sacrifice on all sides.

**Statement:**

- God understood that in order for all of us to be safe, certain secular institutions needed to be established. The Apostle Paul, Timothy, and Peter informed us that we should be prayerful and careful how we engage government.
- Some of Peter’s words have been used by governments to justify slavery and the abuse of civil rights. However, Peter said we should all live like free men (1 Peter 2:16).
- God charged those in government to be a safe place least they eventually will face judgment. Proverbs 16:12 says those in government leadership should “**detest wrongdoing**, for a throne is established through righteousness.”
- In Ephesians 6:9 it says, “masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.”

**Note:** [\*\*Click Here for Further Research on Biblical Slavery\*\*](#) (Paul Copan: Did God Sanction Slavery in the Old Testament?)

**I. What Paul Told Timothy About Government**  
**1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NIV)**

**Pray For Our Government Leaders**

- 1 Timothy 2:1–4 (NIV): I urge, then, first of all, **that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people**—2 for kings and all those in authority, **that we may live peaceful and quiet lives** in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

**II. What Peter Said About Government:**  
**1 Peter 2:13–21 (NIV)**

**1. We Should Respect Government**



3 **Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake** to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

### 2. God Designed Us to Be Free

- 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.
- 16 **Live as free people**, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.
- 17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

### 3. God Wants Us to Be Respectful in Unfair Circumstances

- 18 **Slaves**, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.
- 19 For it is commendable **if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God.**
- 20 But how is it to your credit **if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it?** But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that **you should follow in his steps.**

## III. What Paul Told the Romans About Government Romans 13:1-7 (NIV)

### 1. The Governments Establishment

- 1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. **The authorities that exist have been established by God.**

### 2. The Governments Authority

- 2 Consequently, whoever **rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God** has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

### 3. The Governments Job Description

- 3 For **rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong.** Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. 4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. **They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.** 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

### 4. The Governments Economic Rights

- 6 This is also why **you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.** 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if **respect**, then respect; if **honor**, then honor.

**Next Time:** Embrace the Benefits of Being Thankful

**Read Ahead:** Exodus 16:1-3 and Numbers 14:20-25