

The Healthy Church sends her people into the world to project the life, love, and light of Jesus Christ.

Verse 1

Romans 13:1-7 - ¹ 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. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ 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, ⁴ 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. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

The Healthy Church raises the best citizens, those who refuse political agitation.

Eight thoughts related to God, the Christian, and the Government:

- **God institutes all human governments, no matter how they came into power.**
- **God mandates rulers to punish bad behavior and at the minimum recognize good behavior.**
- **God authorizes rulers to exercise power over life and death in order to get this done.**
- **God wants His children to submit as good citizens no matter who is in power.**
- **God authorizes rulers to raise taxes in order to support what they do.**
- **God wants His children to go along with whatever governing He allows.**
- **God wants His children to respect those who are governing, even when there is a disagreement.**
- **God wants His children to ask Him to provide rulers with what they need to promote civil unity and peace.**

1 Timothy 2:1-2 - ¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

1 Peter 2:17 - Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Ezra 7:27-28 - ²⁷ Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers, who put such a thing as this into the heart of the king, to beautify the house of the LORD that is in Jerusalem, ²⁸ and who extended to me his steadfast love before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty officers. I took courage, for the hand of the LORD my God was on me, and I gathered leading men from Israel to go up with me.

Verse 2

The Healthy Church lives in love among its community, avoiding cultural aggression.

Pickens County population: 138,000

School District of Pickens County student population: 16,500

Pickens County Church participants: 81,000

Ephesians 6:10-12 - ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

1 Corinthians 4:21 - What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

Scripture Reading: *1 Peter 2:1-12*