**First, Christians Are Subject To Government (1)**

1. Amazon Right Now = You Can Find ***Bumper*** Sticker = ***Question*** Authority = ***By*** Anti-Gov’t ***Anarchists***
   1. ***Questioning*** Authority = ***Good*** Thing = ***In Sense*** = Not ***Blindly*** Follow = ***To Be*** Critical & Thinking
   2. True In Church & Community & Civil Gov’t = ***But*** Authority ***Structures*** = Not ***Only*** Not ***Evil*** = God-***Given***
2. **(1)** Passage ***Begins*** W/ Unequivocal—Indisputable ***Call*** For All People = ***W/ Out*** Exception = ***Every*** Soul
   1. Talking ***Esp*** Xpians = ***In Subjection*** = To Governing ***Authorities*** 🡪 There Are ***Limits*** = Not ***Where*** Start
   2. ***Statement*** Here ***So Strong*** = Could ***Hardly*** Be Stronger = ***Need*** To Take ***Quite*** Seriously
   3. Word = Exousias = ***Legitimate*** Delegated ***Authority*** =Not ***Talking*** @ Raw ***Power*** Or Control
3. Xpians = ***Called*** To Be ***Good*** Law-Abiding ***Citizens*** = Xpians ***Should*** Strive ***To*** ***Be*** Best = ***Citizens*** = Why?
   1. Col. 3:23—"*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and* ***not for men***” = Here = ***Work*** Ethic
   2. If Student = Be Best Student 🡪 In Workplace = ***Most*** Conscientious—Hardworking—Honest ***Employee***
   3. Whatever We Doing In Life = Homework—Mowing-- Not ***Work*** For People = ***Live*** For Honor ***Of Christ***
4. So ***When*** Comes ***To Being*** Citizen = Not ***Surprising*** Called ***To Be*** Best ***Citizens*** = Take ***Our Role*** Seriously
   1. ***To*** Respect & Submit ***To Rule*** of Law = **(5)** ***Called*** To Obey **(6)** ***To Pay*** Taxes **(7)** Respect & Honor
   2. Even To Pray = 1 Tim. 2:1-2—"*I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions*” = ***Includes*** = Roman ***Emp***—Amer ***Pres***
   3. Xpians Should Be Great Americans = Bec/ America Is Great? = No Bec/ God Is Great = Ordains Gov’t
   4. Not Saying America Isn’t Great = IT IS 🡪 Saying Wherever You Live = England—Ukraine—Kenya—Rome
   5. 1 Pet 2:13-17—"*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. For* ***this is the will of God****…Fear God. Honor the emperor*.” = Bible Puts These Together = Why?

**Second, Because God Delegates Authority To the State (1-2)**

1. **(1)** ***There Is*** No ***Authority*** Except ***From*** God = ***Those*** That Exist = ***Instituted*** By God = ***2 Important*** Things
2. ***All*** Authority ***Belongs*** To God = ***Ultimate*** Authority ***In Universe*** = All ***Earthly*** Authority ***Given*** From Him
   1. In Theological ***Terms*** = God = ***Sovereign*** = Dan 2:21 " *He removes kings and establishes kings*”
3. Bec/ ***Sovereign*** = Existing ***Authority*** Structures = ***Put*** In Place ***By God*** Himself = ***Ordains*** All Earthly ***Powers***
   1. Biblically & Theologically = Recognize ***3 Spheres*** = Family—Church—State = ***Each*** Own ***Authority***
4. Family = ***Parental*** Authority 🡪 ***By*** Natural & God-Given ***Right*** = Neither ***Church*** or State = ***Infringe***
   1. The Church = Want To Assist Parents In Xpian Nurture = But ***Always*** Respect & Deference ***To Parents***
   2. ***State*** Should Do ***Same*** W/ Education = Defer To Parents In Moral—Spiritual ***Shaping*** of Our Children
   3. ***Right*** Now ***Many*** Parents = ***Properly*** Resisting ***State*** = Bec/ ***Over-Reach*** Indoctrinating ***Our Children***
   4. Some ***In Gov’t*** Follow ***Philosophy*** of Rousseau & Marxism = ***Gov’t*** Takes ***All Authority*** To Itself
   5. Paul Johnson—“*The axis of Rousseau’s ideas was the citizen as child and the State as parent, and he insisted the government should have complete charge of the upbringing of all children*.” = Anti-God
   6. God ***Given*** Responsibility & Authority ***To Parents*** Train ***Children*** = Baptism ***Vow*** = Raise ***In Holy Religion***
5. God ***Vested*** Authority ***In Church*** = Spiritual & Ecclesial = ***Given*** To Elders—***Exercised*** Thru ***Church*** ***Discipline***
6. God Vested ***Authority*** State—Gov’t = ***To*** Defend & Reinforce ***Good*** 🡪 Punish & Hinder ***Evil***
7. **(2)** Our ***Obligation*** To Submit ***So Strong*** = To Resist ***Proper*** Authorities = ***Resist*** God’s ***Will =*** God
   1. Will ***Incur*** Judgment = ***Thru*** Proper ***Exercise*** of Legitimate ***Power*** To Punish = Also ***Hints At*** God’s ***Justice***

**Third, The State (Parents & Elders) Is God’s Servant for Our Good (3-4)**

1. **(3)** State Will Punish Those Who Do Wrong = Rewards Rule of Law =
   1. Good Do Not Need Fear State Power = Only Lawbreakers = If Law-Abiding = Live In Peace & Safety
   2. Sproul—“*The first task of government is to protect people from evil and to preserve and maintain life*”
2. **(4)** So ***State*** God’s ***Servant*** For Our Good = ***State*** Given ***Power*** of Sword = ***To Carry Out*** = God’s ***Wrath***]
   1. ***Rule*** of Law ***Requires*** Enforcement = ***State*** Not ***Bear*** Sword ***In Vain*** = Given ***Legitimate*** Use ***of Force***
   2. God’s ***Justice*** Enforced = ***Thru*** State = ***Armed*** Police—***State*** Prosecutors—Judges—***Penal*** System
3. God Establishes Rule of Law = In Family—Church—State = ***Structures*** of Authority ***Intended*** For Our Good
4. State ***Obvious*** = No ***Human*** Authority = ***Perfect*** 🡪 Not ***Now***—Not ***Ever*** 🡪 Not ***Here***—Not ***Anywhere***
   1. Bad Parents—Dysfunctional Churches—Corrupt States = There Were In Paul’s Day
   2. Human Structures = Comprised of Sinners—Unbelievers = Not Change Truth God Conveying Here
5. ***As Xpians*** = Should Be ***First*** = Grieve & Call Out ***Abuses*** of Power = ***Miscarriage*** of Justice = Care @ Truth

**Finally, Christians & Government (5-7)**

1. **(5)** Called To Submit To Law = Not ***Bec***/ Might ***Get*** Punished = ***But*** Bec/ ***Of Conscience*** = Bec/ ***Right*** Thing
   1. Yarbrough—“*Part of Christian integrity is civic responsibility*.” = Matter ***of Obedience*** To God
   2. We Not ***Submit*** To Authority = ***Out of*** Fear ***of Man*** 🡪 But ***Out of*** Love & Obedience ***To God***
2. **(6)** ***As Citizens*** = We Owe = ***Should*** Pay ***Taxes*** = As Expression ***of Obedience*** To God = ***Render*** To Caesar
   1. Matt. 17:24-25—***Tax*** “*collectors…went up to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the tax?" He said, "Yes."* = Most ***Know*** Story ***of Coin*** In Fish’s ***Mouth*** = But ***Usually*** Paid ***Taxes*** = Ordinary ***Way***
   2. ***Instructive*** Paul ***Chooses*** = Taxes ***To Illustrate*** Submission = ***Needed*** Special ***Mention*** = Still ***Does***
3. **(7)** ***Owe*** Governing ***Authorities*** ALL ***Due*** To Their ***Office*** = Taxes & Revenues = ***But Also*** Respect & Honor
   1. People ***In Offices*** of Authority = ***Command*** Respect = ***Whose*** Command? = ***God’s***! Respect & Honor
   2. President = ***Owed*** Respect & Honor ***Due*** His Office = ***Xpians*** Today ***Explicitly*** Rejecting ***This*** = Be Careful
   3. Police Officers ***Command*** Respect = ***To Resist*** In Line of Duty = ***To Resist*** God’s ***Authority*** = Dangerous
   4. ***Tragic*** = Public ***Abuses*** of Power = ***Emboldens*** People ***To Resist*** = But ***Only*** Creates ***Worse*** Situation
4. Anarchy—Lawlessness = ***Evil***—***Anti-God*** = Bec/ ***Lifts*** Restraint ***on Evil*** = That God ***Himself*** Put ***In Place***
   1. Need ***For*** ***Reform*** = Laws & Policing = ***Semper Reformanda*** = Need ***Accountability*** = Those ***In Authority***
   2. But ***Answer*** = Not ***Anarchy*** = God ***Ordained*** Civil Gov’t = ***Rule*** of Law = ***To Defy*** = To Defy ***God***
   3. 1 John 3:4—"*Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness*.”
   4. Police Should Be Respected & Well Funded 🡪 Laws Enforced 🡪 Criminals Should Be Prosecuted
5. Serving ***In Public Office*** At All Levels = ***Honorable*** Calling = ***They Are*** God’s ***Servant*** For Rule ***of Law***
   1. Those ***Who*** Hold ***Office*** = Abuse It—Unfaithful—Corrupt = ***Will*** ***Answer*** To God = ***Unfaithful*** Servants!
6. **(1)** Power ***of Gov’t*** = Not ***Absolute*** = No ***Authority*** Except ***From*** God = ***He Is*** The Lord of Lords = King Of…
   1. Piper—"*Our political allegiances are to Jesus. No party, no nation, no ethnicity, no ideology has any ultimate claim on us. Our decisive constitution is the word of God, and no human document*.”
   2. ***Whenever*** Law—Command = Not ***At Odds*** W/ God’s ***Law*** = Called ***To Submission***—Obedience
   3. But ***Whenever*** Law—Command = ***At Odds*** W/ God’s ***Law*** = Obey ***God*** Not ***Man***= Home—Church—State
7. Whenever Authorities Permit Sin = Ultimately Follow God’s Law = Home—Church—State
8. Example Where State Permits Sin = For Last 50 Years = Abortion Been Legal = Not Make It Right
   1. Ps 139:13-14—"*For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made*.” =
   2. Heard People Say Against Abortion = But Support Right To Choose = Obeys Man Not God
   3. As Xpians = God’s Law ***Overrides*** Human Laws = ***Right*** To Celebrate ***Overturn*** of Roe = Not ***Gloat***
9. Though Law Allows Something = Contrary To Word of God = We Go W/ God
10. But Opposite Also Happens = Law Forbids = What God Commands = Preaching of Word & Gospel Of Xp
    1. Acts 5:28-29—"*We strictly charged you not to teach in this name*…[Stop Preaching Christ] *But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men*.” = A Hidden Life @ ***Austrian*** Farmer
    2. Islamic Countries 🡪 China Forbids Xpian Training By Parents = Secret Churches—Bible Smuggling
11. Not ***Answer*** Plethora ***of Questions*** = When ***Is It*** Right ***To Rebel***? What ***Are*** Limits? ***When*** Over-Reach
    1. But Not ***Even*** Begin ***To Answer*** Those ***Questions*** = Until ***Our Hearts*** Thoroughly ***Obedient*** To This Text
    2. Commands Every Soul Be Subject To Governing Authorities = For They Have Been Instituted By God