

## Romans 13:7

**Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is *due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.**

As Americans, it is very often more difficult for us to understand this scripture, as say someone from a third world nation. Here especially, we are constantly barraged with statements such as, "Question Authority." This is obviously a statement that is straight from the gates of hell. Because as believers in Jesus Christ; we are exhorted to honor authority and the people who hold those offices. Of course it is much easier to do when that elected official holds to the same values as you do. But even if they don't, we are told respect and honor the office anyway.

Our response as a Christian is to render or pay what is required by the governing authorities. If they are wrong or if they are taking advantage of us; then we are certainly within our rights to seek change through proper channels. What must be understood here is that when we live according to God and His Word; then He intervenes in our behalf. But should we decide to do it our way, then the outcome is ours alone. Clearly we are commanded here to pay our full portion of taxes, to claim what we actually earn, to have a respect or reverence for those offices that are over us, and to give honor where it is due. Giving honor is the one requirement that I see abused most often; in and out of the church. I have witnessed people calling their pastor by his first name in front of the congregation. What is more sad is that most of the time it was done by the elders within that church. I am not quite sure if it's because people want to show or prove that they are equal to their pastor in front of the rest of the body. But the truth is you're not. While your pastor is walking in the office for which God called him; he is spiritually over you. He may not be as educated as you are, he may not even know the Word as well as you do; but if he is walking in the office as your local pastor, then God commands that each of us honor him for that. Never forget what happened to Korah when he treated Moses as his equal; God took him out. I am not trying to threaten anyone here, but I want you to know that our choices will bare us consequences. Often we don't want those consequences, but it is too late by then.

Church, I exhort you to honor your pastor and the leadership that is over you. If there is something that you don't agree with, then go to your pastor or leadership as the Bible commands us. If nothing can be resolved doing it that way, then take two or three witnesses and go again. Still if you feel that you have hit a wall, then perhaps you need to prayerfully look for a new church body to worship with. But please remember this, no where in the Bible does it talk about a Democracy. We are not encouraged to vote in order to come to an agreement; but rather we see that God leads through a man. If you want your church to function as Biblically as possible, then you must submit to God's Theocratic plan. If you want to see Gods best for your church, pastor and yourself, then keep on your knees. Instead of trying to get a committee to agree with you, get God's mind on the matter. Not only will you keep out of sin doing it this way, but it will also open the door for the Lord to move as well. May God bless you as you walk according to His Word!