

Our New President

Next week, our new President will be sworn into office. Just like the last few elections, this past one was close, and although Obama is our legitimately elected President, there are still many people who would have preferred someone else. What should be our response to him? God, in Deuteronomy 17, gave instructions through Moses for the king that would eventually rule over them (cf. 1 Samuel 8:5). By virtue of these instructions, God sanctioned government, even though that government would not necessarily be good, nor would we be in agreement with it. Jesus also said that rulers are ordained by God. Matthew 22:21 says, *"Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's."*

The apostle Paul enhanced this instruction: *"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation"* (Romans 13:1-2). It is our responsibility to subject ourselves to our government, like it or not. It is unbecoming to joke or make disparaging comments about our leaders. God is not pleased with this inappropriate activity. Instead, God gave us instruction for the treatment of our leaders: *"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty"* (1 Timothy 2:1-2). When our new President is inaugurated next week, let's pray for him that our country will be taken in a direction that will reflect the principles of God's word.

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