

New Horizons Newsletter



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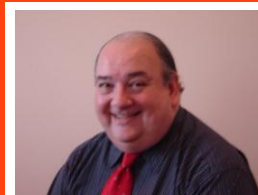
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"May the Lord show you His favor and give you peace."

(Nu. 6:26)

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS AUTHORITY AND GOVERNMENT?

By Dr. Pierre J. Samaan

When growing up, it was common for us to be sitting at the kitchen table eating our dinner while watching the 6:30 PM news on our small kitchen television. My father would make a point of keeping abreast of the daily news. We knew to speak only during commercials, and that was only if my father had no comment about what he just heard. He was always interested in hearing opinions, even when it came from a child's limited fund of knowledge.

Having immigrated to this country in 1950, my father and mother were very appreciative and respectful of the democratic freedoms in the U.S.. My father may not have agreed with government opinions or decisions, but he always taught us the importance of obeying the laws of government. He often said, *"Always give back to the government what you owe in taxes and allegiance."* (Romans 13:7) He even changed from an Independent to a party affiliation, so he could have more voting opportunities.

With all the turmoil occurring in the world today, I often remember my father's words of obeying and respecting the government and the offices of leadership, even if you do not agree with them. The same is true with local, company, family, and church governing laws and leadership (Romans 13:1).

In a Christian/Hebraic society, we are supposed to be appointing officials by God's standards. In like manner, those officials we appoint (vote) into office are to use righteous judgment - hearing and obeying the Spirit of God - without taking payoffs in money or special favors. God's standards apply to both the voter and the elected officials, for to accept bribes or special treatment *"...blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous."* (Exodus 16:18-19 AMP)

Whether the appointer/voter or appointee/elected official, the Bible tells us that we are to make our decisions based upon our close relationship with God - right standing with God (Psalm 9:4).

"...but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 9:24 NASB)

When people who obey God elect leaders that follow God's standards, only the rebellious should have reason to fear the authority given to the unscrupulous. To rebel or make selfish decisions is to go against God's appointed and divine order - consequences are inevitable (Romans 13:2-3).

"By me Kings reign and rulers decree justice. . .He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding!" (Proverbs 8:15; Daniel 2:21)

Making wise decisions becomes exponentially more difficult after each self-centered decision. Understandably, when we do not follow God's standard, we then justify our self-centered decision by lying to ourselves and others. In doing so, we are, bit by bit, numbing our conscience, making it more difficult to hear from the Spirit of God (Romans 13:5).

"God's Spirit spoke through me, his words took shape on my tongue. The God of Israel spoke to me, Israel's Rock-Mountain said, "Whoever governs fairly and well, who rules in the Fear-of-God, Is like first light at daybreak without a cloud in the sky, Like green grass carpeting earth, glistening under fresh rain." (2 Samuel 23:3 MSG)

Would it not be wonderful if, whether in the secular or religious realms, we base our every decision on the love of God and love of one another (Romans 13:10)? This is not a fantasy, but a truth based upon being Christ-centered rather than self-centered.

Instead of being torn by secular and religious conflicts of this day, put on the Armor of God, *"...But clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah).*" (Romans 13:14 AMP).

Pray About Being a Prayer Partner & Financial Supporter

Ecclesiastes 7:12 (NASB)

"For wisdom is protection just as money is protection, But the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the lives of its possessors."

Please Pray For . . .

- Pray for Christian brothers and sisters affected by the aftermath of the tornadoes, floods, and fires in the U.S. and the Japanese earthquake. Please give your donations to Christian relief organizations.
- Please pray for all the Christian Counseling clients. God is good, all the time!
- Pray for your church Pastors and staff.
- Pray for Federal, state, and local governments (they need all the help they can get).
- Pray for your children and family.
- Pray for your spouse.

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"Seeking True Recovery to Replace Pain With Healing Peace."

*Clinical Christian Counseling/Clinical Pastoral Counseling is crisis intervention and strengthening of Christian character and values, which is Discipleship. Our Ordained and Professional Clinical Christian Counselors are committed to the welfare of the Christian. Clients are encouraged to take advantage of their own church programs as part of their Christian Counseling Treatment Plan. We are credentialed professionals who must follow state confidentiality guidelines. **This is not church Lay Counseling in which your confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.***

*Professional Clinical Christian Counseling will help the client, couple, or family move beyond tolerable existence into genuine inner healing, renewal, and wholeness through the work of God's Holy Spirit in the counseling.**

Tolerable recovery is the process of getting better. True recovery says, "I made it!" This is when I can look at the source of my pain - which has become a stronghold - and realize it has been replaced with God's healing peace - Replacing the source pain with God's Truth.

**Clinical Christian Counselors are exempt from Florida State Licensing, Statute 491.014. All Christian counselors at New Horizons Institute of Counseling are Ordained Clergy, Board Certified & Licensed by the National Board of Examiners of the National Christian Counselors Association. We serve under the authorities of our licensing boards and the Pastor and Board of the UB church.*

NEW RESEARCH FINDINGS

Vitamin D Deficiency Among Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Patients

Researchers have just found that vitamin D levels among systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) patients directly relates to the severity of the disease and the development of the

infection. The study found that people with low levels of vitamin D are more prone to develop SLE than those with higher levels.

Mindless Eating: Losing Weight Without Thinking

ScienceDaily (Aug. 6, 2011) — Dieters may not need as much willpower as they think, if they make simple changes in their surroundings that can result in eating healthier without a second thought, said a consumer psychologist at the American Psychological Association's 119th Annual Convention. Read article at:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/08/110805163541.htm>

Omega 3 Fatty Acids Have Protective Benefits When Taken During Pregnancy, Study Suggests

ScienceDaily (Aug. 5, 2011) — An Emory University study published online on August 1 in Pediatrics suggests consuming Omega 3 fatty acids during pregnancy helps protect babies against illness during early infancy. Read article at:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/08/110801105656.htm>

Omega-3 Reduces Anxiety and Inflammation in Healthy Students, Study Suggests

ScienceDaily (Aug. 1, 2011) — A new study gauging the impact of consuming more fish oil showed a marked reduction both in inflammation and, surprisingly, in anxiety among a cohort of healthy young people. Read article at:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/07/110713121313.htm>

Restoring Happiness in People With Depression

ScienceDaily (July 31, 2011) — Practicing positive activities may serve as an effective, low-cost treatment for people suffering from depression, according to researchers at the University of California, Riverside and Duke University Medical Center. Read article at:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/07/110729175803.htm>

Barna Study of Religious Change Since 1991 Shows Significant Changes by Faith Group

Read article at: <http://www.barna.org/faith-spirituality/514-barna-study-of-religious-change-since-1991-shows-significant-changes-by-faith-group>

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