

# Can Christians Be Involved in Civil Offices?

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## Survey of Scripture

1. It is lawful for Christians to accept and execute the office of a magistrate when called there unto; (2 Sam 23:3; Psa 82:3-4; Exod. 22:8-9, 28-29; Prov. 14:35; 16:10, 12; 20:26, 28; 25:2; 28:15-16; 29:4, 14; 31:4-5; Rom. 13:2, 4, 6)
2. in the management whereof, as they ought especially to maintain justice and peace, according to the wholesome laws of each kingdom and commonwealth, so for that end they may lawfully now, under the New Testament wage war upon just and necessary occasions. (Luke 3:14; Rom 13:4)

## What Does This Teach Us?

1. Christians should view service in public office in the language of Romans 13:2,4,6
  - a. V. 2: he \_\_\_\_\_ by God
  - b. V. 4,6: he is God's \_\_\_\_\_ for good
  - c. The descriptions, alone, seem to show the \_\_\_\_\_ of the office
  - d. The office assumes the use of \_\_\_\_\_ to maintain authority (v. 4).
2. Additional examples of service are seen in the \_\_\_\_\_ (David and others who served for God's honor), \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Scriptural Opposition to civil authority and the use of force
  - a. The \_\_\_\_\_ Commandment (Exodus 20:13)

b. \_\_\_\_\_ words in Matt. 5:38-48

4. Does sphere of vocation make a difference?

a. There is a distinction of sphere of execution shown in Romans 12:17-21 versus Romans 13:3-4; we can only conclude it is wrong for a \_\_\_\_\_ person to take revenge but it is right for a \_\_\_\_\_ magistrate to do so.

b. Matthew 5:37-48 is referring to the duty of \_\_\_\_\_ persons, not \_\_\_\_\_ officials.

c. If it is wrong to kill, and God cannot sin, how can He tell judges to take the life of, that is, kill, \_\_\_\_\_ in Exodus 21:12-17?

d. It is only the historical orthodox distinction between the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ spheres that resolves any perceived conflict.

5. Conclusions to these truths

a. One's calling in life does affect what is \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

b. The \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist position is radically different from the \_\_\_\_\_ position