

## How to honor those who rule over us... ...while living out our Kingdom values - 1 Timothy 2:1-4

God sets governments and leaders in place with an assignment

- Like all humans, they fall short and they fail in their assignments

Celebrate the national values that are in agreement with Kingdom values

Acknowledge the areas where Kingdom values conflict with national values

1. Be clear about the issues which directly conflict with our Kingdom values  
27 Then they brought the apostles in before the council. 28 "Didn't we tell you never again to teach in this man's name?" the high priest demanded. "Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about Jesus, and you intend to blame us for his death!" 29 But Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than human authority (Acts 5:27-29 – NLT).
2. Live those Kingdom values in ways that bring light to our neighbors  
12 Be careful how you live among your unbelieving neighbors. Even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will believe and give honor to God when he comes to judge the world. 13 For the Lord's sake, accept all authority -- the king as head of state, 14 and the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish all who do wrong and to honor those who do right. 15 It is God's will that your good lives should silence those who make foolish accusations against you (1 Peter 2:12-15 – NLT).
3. Don't pick fights over issues that are not really important  
1 Remind your people to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good (Titus 3:1 – NLT).
4. Use our spiritual authority to address spiritual issues  
12 For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12 – NLT).

Our role in response is to those in authority over us is to...

1 I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. As you make your requests, plead for God's mercy upon them, and give thanks. 2 Pray this way for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and pleases God our Savior, 4 for he wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth (1 Timothy 2:1-4 – NLT).

1. Pray for those in authority (1 Tim. 2:2)
  - Plead God's mercy upon them (1 Tim. 2:1)
  - Be thankful for them (1 Tim. 2:1)
2. Stay focused on our real priorities (1 Tim. 2:3-4)

3. Obey the laws that do not violate God's word (Romans 13:1-2)  
All governments have been placed in power by God. 2 So those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow (Romans 13:-12 – NLT).
4. Treat government officials respectfully (Romans 13:6-7)  
6 Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid so they can keep on doing the work God intended them to do. 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and import duties, and give respect and honor to all to whom it is due (Romans 13:6-7 – NLT).
5. Fulfill your civil duties and obligations (Romans 13:6-7)
6. Follow a higher standard of behavior than the law demands (Romans 13:8-10)  
8 Pay all your debts, except the debt of love for others. You can never finish paying that! If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill all the requirements of God's law. 9 For the commandments against adultery and murder and stealing and coveting – and any other commandment – are all summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to anyone, so love satisfies all of God's requirements (Romans 13:8-10 – NLT).
  - The law is made up of what we should not do (don't kill, don't steal)
  - We are called to a higher standard - what we should do