



## Leaving Behind the Fear of Government

**Listen!** What if the authorities over us are uncaring, of different beliefs, or even hostile?

- Please understand something: This is not a political rally—it is a Bible lesson.
- Three administrations and three sets of fears. (Please see the back of this page.)

**Question: What about government scares you?** Maybe you could list 30 things.

- **Question:** What can we do about the things in government that scare us?
- **Partial Answer:** We can be involved in the governmental/political process to influence the system toward the values and beliefs that we hold—this is part of what it means to be a good citizen of the government God put over us.
- **Definitely not the Answer:** “Trust government to get ‘fixed’ and solve all our problems.” Only God does not need to be “fixed” and ultimately only God can solve all our problems—and He does not intend to do that in this life.

### Some more of the answer—for escaping the fear of government:

**#1 We escape the fear of government...by understanding that our primary citizenship is in heaven.** Philippians 3:20 and Colossians 1:13

**#2 We escape the fear of government ...by obeying the government.** Romans 13:1a

- **Question:** Is there ever a time for civil disobedience.
- **Answer:** It is conceivable that there would be a situation in which God calls us to civil disobedience but the overwhelming tenor of the Bible is civil-obedience.

**#3 We escape the fear of government...by embracing the truth of the sovereignty of God.**  
Romans 13:1b

**#4 We escape the fear of government...by cultivating the fear of God Who will bring about justice and make everything right.** Rev 14:7

**God’s Command: “Fear God.”** (34 times)

# “Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

## **What various people feared about the Bush administration:**

- Will his Christian values harm or curtail my rights and freedoms?
- Will he do well in handling a terrorist attack?
- Will he help us get out of economic trouble?
- Can I trust a man whom I don't think is telling me the truth?
- Will we ever get out of Iraq—is there even a plan?
- Will he derail a drive toward universal health care coverage?
- Will he succeed in curtailing abortion in America?

## **What various people fear about the Obama administration:**

- Will his religious and social views harm my rights and freedoms?
- Will he do well in handling a terrorist attack?
- Will he help us get out of economic trouble?
- Can I trust a man whom I don't think is telling me the truth?
- Will he expand the practice of abortion in America?
- Will he move our nation toward socialism and harm my finances?

## **What various people will fear about the next administration:**

- What will the values or faith or politics of the next president mean for me?
- Will he/she do well in handling a terrorist attack?
- Will he/she help us get out of economic trouble?
- Can I trust a man/woman whom I don't think is telling me the truth?
- Will he/she install policies that harm my business or personal finances?
- Will he/she increase the intolerance of Christians and Christian values?
- Will he/she move us further down the slope toward euthanasia?

## **Leaving behind the fear of government:**

- **Today:** Please read and reflect on all the passages in today's message.
- **Monday:** Do you find yourself being afraid of anything on the three lists above?
- **Tuesday:** Why are you afraid of these and how intense is that fear?
- **Wed:** What does it mean for you that your primary citizenship is in heaven?
- **Thursday:** What is stirred up in you by the command to obey our government?
- **Friday:** What do you need to do to better understand the sovereignty of God?
- **Sat:** What do you need to do to better cultivate the fear of God in your life?

*Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: [www.cypressbible.org](http://www.cypressbible.org) and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.*