

TAXES

Tax is a subject of debate among some Christians. They feel it is unfair and even unchristian that they should have to pay taxes. Some claim the IRS has no legal authority to tax us and, therefore, feel freedom to avoid paying taxes wherever they can. Scripture addresses this subject:

Romans 13:7

“Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax {is due;} custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.”

It would seem only fair that everyone in a community or a nation would want to pay their fair share of taxes for the services that the community or nation provides. This may include roads to drive on, a military to protect us, and a multitude of others – not to exclude the salaries of those full time officials who work for us in different departments and levels of government. In fact, the Bible addresses this indicating we are to pay taxes to support them.

Romans 13:3-6

“For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil.

Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.

For because of this you also pay taxes, for {rulers} are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.”

Jesus himself evidently paid the appropriate taxes and, when tested by the Pharisees about the poll tax, he was quick to respond in Mark12:

Mark 12:15-17

“Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?” But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, ‘Why are you testing Me? Bring Me a denarius to look at.’

And they brought {one.} And He said to them, ‘Whose likeness and inscription is this?’ And they said to Him, ‘Caesar's.’

And Jesus said to them, ‘Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.’ And they were amazed at Him.”

Although there doesn't seem to be a lot of references to taxes, it can be safely argued that Jesus thought we were to be examples of good citizens and pay our share of taxes.