Honor The King
1Peter 2:13–17

The Christian & His Government
Our lives are not wholly segmented. Each portion affects another
Especially is this true in regards to the life of a Christian
   A disciple of Christ can have no area or portion where Christ is not allowed as Lord & Master
     (chart Cogdill - "Walking By Faith" p 30)
   The Christian's relationship to the church; community; home; business; & the government must
     be ordered by our allegiance to Christ
   What does Scripture reveal of relationship of Christian to Government

Two Extreme Political Views
Are free to be involved in any political, civil, & governmental process
   Say one must pray, register, be informed, help candidates, vote
   God's Word does not enjoin such or classify not doing so as sin
Not free to be involved in any political, civil, or governmental activity
   Must obey laws, pay taxes but forbidden to participate any other way
   God has not condemned involvement with government in general
Relation to government & specific duties are given - other activities are optional and remain in the
    area of judgment
We must not require nor prohibit where God has not

Christians Are Subject To Government
Submit to the authority for the Lord's sake - **Romans 13:1–7; 1Peter 2:13–17**
   All authority is from God and they exist because of God
   Do not resist. No matter what type of government
Government is for the punishment of evil doers - **Romans 13:4**
   The right to wield capital punishment - **Romans 13:5**
Being subject is the right thing to do
Will of God that Christians be the very best citizens in any society

Christians Work Within The Law
We may use opportunities which our government allows - **Acts 25:11**
   Christians freed from world and sin, yet, does not give us the right to break the law - **1Peter 2:16**
   What if God's commands & government's law contradicts? - **Acts 5:29**
Pay Taxes
   Some Christians have objected to paying taxes because of use of $ - **Matthew 17:24–27**
    Jesus commanded it - **Matthew 22:15–22**
    Paul commanded it - **Romans 13:6–7**
    Peter warned about abusing our liberty - **1Peter 2:16**
   Do you suppose Roman government was doing wicked things with tax money in first century?
Respect & Pray For Officials - Romans 13:7
   "honor the king" (Remember the Caesars' reputation.) - **1Peter 2:17; 2Peter 2:9–11; 1Timothy 2:1–3**

Christians & Politics
Holding public office or civil position
   Not sinful in and of itself
   Dangers to be avoided of which one must not deceive himself
    Compromise, the essence of politics
    Equating political programs with the Gospel
    Enamored with the charms of political life
    Pride, greed, envy, forsaking work of the Lord, etc

Civil & government positions must be judge on basis of God's word
Voting
  Some claim it has nothing to do with their religion
    Sacred cow - idea, institution, etc. unreasonably held immune from questioning or criticism
    Yet, act as if they inherited their politics just as sure as eye color
    We scold our denominational friends for such a thought process
    Is there an area of your life that the Lord does not govern? Chart
  Christians must expose evil - **Ephesians 5:10–13; Matthew 14:1–4; 2Samuel 12:1–15**
  If an avenue of making God's truth known is offered what would God expect a Christian do?
    Stand for truth and biblical morals - **Philippians 2:14–16**
  "Keep religion out of politics. You cannot legislate morality."
    Problem is politicians legislate immorality such as homosexuality, abortion, education in amoral
      philosophy, etc (chart) - **Psalm 119:128**
  Consider the impact of lone servants of God who stood before kings, queens & governors.
    Nathan, Daniel, Esther, Peter, John, Paul
    Founding of our nation threw off one government to establish own
    Can we participate in such?
    What if all else has failed to return our nation to morality?

We Have Responsibility
Relation of an individual with the government is not the only relationship to be concerned about.
Have you considered you relationship with Christ and the responsibilities enjoined by God's Word?

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