

## “First Responder”

(Genesis 3:8-9; Romans 5:6-8; 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-6)

### I. GOD is a First Responder.

- In the GARDEN of EDEN.

*Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.<sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:8-9)*

- At CHRISTMAS and the CROSS.

*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.<sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die.<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (1 John 4:10; Romans 5:6-8)*

### II. What do we OWE our Public Servants?

*Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.<sup>2</sup> Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.<sup>3</sup> For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.<sup>4</sup> For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.<sup>5</sup> Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.<sup>6</sup> This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.<sup>7</sup> Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. (Romans 13:1-7)*

- SUBMISSION/OBEDIENCE
- TAXES/REVENUE
- RESPECT
- HONOR

*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--<sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.<sup>3</sup> This is good, and pleases God our Savior,<sup>4</sup> who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.<sup>5</sup> For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a ransom for all men-- the testimony given in its proper time.<sup>7</sup> And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle-- I am telling the truth, I am not lying-- and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles.<sup>8</sup> ¶ I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing. (1 Timothy 2:1-8)*

- PRAYER
- THANKS