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Civics is the study of the right and responsibilities of citizenship. Therefore civic responsibilities are duties which the citizens of a country are expected to perform to ensure peace, progress and the unity of their country. For peace to reign in the society, the citizens must be law-abiding and obedient and they must have respect for constituted authority.

The Need for Order in the Society (Rom. 13:1-7)

In St. Paul's epistle to the Romans, he admonished Christians to be law-abiding. Every authority on earth belongs to God. No government on earth ever existed, without the knowledge of God. If this is the case, to resist the government amounts to resisting God and such resistance may attract the wrath or judgment of God. St. Paul said rulers are not a terror to good conduct but to bad conduct. People should, therefore, not fear those in authority, provided they do what is good. For conscience purposes, people should be subject to those in authority. St Paul expects Christians not only to be law-abiding but also do that which is expected of them at the right time and at the right place.

Submission to Those in Authority

St. Peter admonished the Christians to subject themselves to civil authority. This means that Christians are expected to obey all human institutions. Peter established that those in authority can punish offenders and praise or reward those who do the right things. He said that men should obey authority because it is the Lord's will and also to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Hence resistance to legitimate authority is wrong.

People in Authority to Serve with the Fear of God

The Jews believed that angelic powers stood behind the human authority to influence the affairs of the nation. Since they regard God as the supreme power, all other powers would be His offshoot, either authorized or permitted by Him. Moreover, the civil rule encourages good and suppresses evil. This means that those in authority are to execute their authority with the fear of God.