

One of the Pharisees' attempts to entrap Jesus concerned paying taxes to Caesar. If Jesus said it was wrong to pay taxes to Caesar, the Pharisees would have reported Him to the Roman governor. If He said it was appropriate to pay taxes to Caesar, the Pharisees would have accused Him of being disloyal to God. His answer negated their attempts at entrapment: pay to Caesar what is owed to Caesar, and pay to God what is owed to God. (Matthew 22:15-22)

In both the Old Testament and the New Testament, we are told to honour both God and the king. (Ecclesiastes 8:2-5; 1 Peter 2:17) Paul gives the most detailed explanation in Romans 13:1-7 where he says that civil rulers have been established by God. Therefore, to rebel against civil authority is to rebel against God. He says that civil authorities are God's ministers who commend right behaviour and punish wrong behaviour.

We may not always agree with civil authorities, but we are to honour them just as we are to fear the Lord. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Proverbs 24:21-22 "My child, fear the Lord and the king. Don't associate with rebels, for disaster will hit them suddenly. Who knows what punishment will come from the Lord and the king?"