

## CONCLUSION

Government may be a problem, but it is not *the* problem. Like so many other terrible issues in our world, bad government is just the “check engine” light informing us that something is wrong “under the hood.” While lobbying and advocating, etc., have a proper and important place in a Christian’s response to authority, such activities will never solve the problem “under the sun.”

Instead, we need a perfect Governor, an excellent King to enter our existence, right all wrongs, and establish a government of ultimate righteousness. In the message of the gospel, we discover that this King has already come once; but rather than coming to fix broken government, He came to fix broken government officials and earthly citizens through the blood of His cross and the power of His resurrection. He’s coming again, though! And at His second coming, He will complete His redemption and climax His restoration. He will dispel all the shadows—all those broken governments that He had ordained—and will establish His kingdom forever.

So, in the meantime, dear fellow citizen, fear God and honor the king (1 Peter 2:17; Proverbs 24:21), for therein God has planned that fulfillment and joy be found, even in a broken world “under the sun.”

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| <b>Book:</b>        | <i>Ecclesiastes</i>  |
| <b>Series:</b>      | <i>Two Ways to Live: Under the Sun or In the Fear of God</i> |
| <b>Lesson 12:</b>   | <i>Wisdom for Citizens</i>                                   |
| <b>Text:</b>        | Ecclesiastes 8:1-17  |
| <b>Date:</b>        | Sunday, April 21, 2013                                       |
| <b>Next Lesson:</b> | Ecclesiastes 9:1-17  |

## INTRODUCTION

In this lesson, we’ll again allow Solomon to be our Teacher, exhorting us to **live as wise citizens** and showing us how. And, as we have grown to expect, at the root of wise citizenship is “the fear of God.”

### A WISE CITIZEN RESPECTS

#### THE GOVERNMENT’S \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 1-9).

1. *They respond in* \_\_\_\_\_ *(vv. 2-4).*

a. *We must submit because of* \_\_\_\_\_ *(v. 2).*

b. *We must submit because of the* \_\_\_\_\_ *(v. 3).*

2. *They respond in* \_\_\_\_\_ *(vv. 5-7).*

a. In order to \_\_\_\_\_ harm (v. 5)

b. In order to \_\_\_\_\_ harm (v. 6)

c. In order to \_\_\_\_\_ harm (v. 7)

3. They respond with \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 8-9).

**Application:**

**A WISE CITIZEN RECOGNIZES  
THE GOVERNMENT'S \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 10-14).**

1. The failure of \_\_\_\_\_ government (vv. 10-11)

2. The facts of \_\_\_\_\_ government (vv. 12-14)

**Application:**

**A WISE CITIZEN \_\_\_\_\_  
IN SPITE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY (vv. 15-17).**

1. They \_\_\_\_\_ life (v. 15).

2. They \_\_\_\_\_ God (vv. 16-17).

**Application:**