

Romans 1:32 -- "And, although they know the ordinances of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."

Romans 2:14-15 -- "For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending themselves."

## 2. Human Government

Human government has been instituted by God to restrain men from expressing their evil tendencies in ways that are harmful to one another, and to promote cooperation, good order, and civic decency.

Romans 13:1-5 -- "Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil. Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for conscience' sake."

I Peter 2:13-14 -- "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution; whether to a king as the one in authority; or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right."

I Timothy 2:1-2 -- "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity."

## 3. The special revelation of God, both in the Law and in the Gospel

The first use of the Law is to restrain human beings from expression of their depravity. The second use of the Law is to provide human beings with a mirror in which they can discern their sins. The third use of the Law is to provide a rule of life, a standard of right and wrong conduct. Transgression of the Law of God brings eternal and temporal threatenings and punishments; obedience to the Law of God thus tends to discourage unrighteousness and to encourage righteousness in the external aspects of social, civic, moral, and religious life.