



Cops don't scare people who do good things; only evil-doers should fear. Do you want to be unafraid of authority? Do good things! Then, he will honor you.

Romans 13:3 Simple English Translation

I looked up to police officers, “cops,” when I was very young. As with many other boys, that was what I wanted to be when I grew up, along with cowboy and soldier. In a way a police officer is all three, usually without the horse.

When I got older and was issued my driver’s license, I learned a new fear of “cops.” They seemed to have it in for me, and I (of course) did not deserve it.

What’s wrong with screaming around corners, laying rubber, passing anywhere you want, driving fast but within your youthful capabilities, and blowing stop signs? Do you agree?

With all that aside, here is what those “dirty coppers” do every day:

- They carry old women out of burning buildings.
- Step between irrational, armed spouses during domestic disputes. (Usually one spouse turns on the cop trying to protect him or her.)
- Have nightmares after lifting a dead child and his bicycle from the roadway (themselves being parents).
- Remove abused children from homes while taking abuse themselves.
- Stop a speeder, not knowing if he just robbed a store and is going to shoot him.
- Arrest the punk that is going to sell dope to your child, only to get kicked and spat upon.
- Reach into their own pockets to give some poor kid lunch money.
- Investigate grizzly, fatal accidents.
- Take verbal abuse from a parent while explaining why they were stopped for not having their children in safety restraints. “Why don’t you go after the real criminals?” (See above.)

The preceding is the tip of the iceberg. Think about this the next time some trooper pulls you over for speeding. God sets the rules. Man is to follow them. God ordains “cops”- police, troopers, sheriffs, deputies, and agents- to uphold the rules. God inspired Paul to write as follows:

CIVIL AUTHORITY

¹Obey the government, for God is the one who has put it there. There is no government anywhere that God has not placed in power. ²So those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow. ³For the policeman does not frighten people who are doing right; but those doing evil will always fear him. So if you don't want to be afraid, keep the laws and you will get along well. ⁴The policeman is sent by God to help you. But if you are doing something wrong, of course you should be afraid, for he will have you punished. He is sent by God for that very purpose. ⁵Obey the laws, then, for two reasons: first, to keep from being punished, and second, just because you know you should.

TAXES AND DEBTS

⁶Pay your taxes too, for these same two reasons. For government workers need to be paid so that they can keep on doing God's work, serving you. ⁷Pay everyone whatever he ought to have: pay your taxes and import duties gladly, obey those over you, and give honor and respect to all those to whom it is due. ⁸Pay all your debts except the debt of love for others--never finish paying that! For if you love them, you will be obeying all of God's laws, fulfilling all his requirements. ⁹If you love your neighbor as much as you love yourself you will not want to harm or cheat him, or kill him or steal from him.

LOVE AND LAW

And you won't sin with his wife or want what is his, or do anything else the Ten Commandments say is wrong. All ten are wrapped up in this one, to love your neighbor as you love yourself. ¹⁰Love does no wrong to anyone. That's why it fully satisfies all of God's requirements. It is the only law you need.

CHILDREN OF LIGHT

¹¹Another reason for right living is this: you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for the coming of the Lord is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²⁻¹³The night is far gone, the day of his return will soon be here. So quit the evil deeds of darkness and put on the armor of right living, as we who live in the daylight should! Be decent and true in everything you do so that all can approve your behavior. Don't spend your time in wild parties and getting drunk or in adultery and lust, or fighting, or jealousy. ¹⁴But ask the Lord Jesus Christ to help you live as you should, and don't make plans to enjoy evil. (Romans 13 LVB).

The Simple English Translation of Romans 13:3 interestingly uses the term "evil-doers." Since September 11, 2001, we have heard those words used frequently by President Bush to describe the Godless and things outside of God. The evildoers of September 11 have something to fear. Evildoer is also used many times in the King James and other versions. Here is a sampling"

Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. (Psalm 37:1-3)

Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity? (Psalm 94:16)

Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil-doers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel to anger, they are gone away backward. (Webster's Bible Isaiah 1:4)

Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. (1 Peter 3:16)

So, respect the “cops” and what they do for you. They are doing God’s work in a non-spiritual nature, nevertheless upholding God’s commandments. When an officer pulls you over for a little “harmless speeding,” remember that he doesn’t know if you have a gun and just robbed a bank. Know that his job is dangerous, and he will treat you with more respect than you show to him. He will give his life for your child.

God’s Son already gave His life for your child and for you. He gave His life so that we might have eternal life. This is a gift, but you must accept it for it to be of value to you:

Because of our sins, we are destined to die: *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.* (Romans 3:23). Even so, God loves us and provided a substitute to pay for our sins: *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* (John 3:16). Salvation from our sins is for anyone who will accept God’s gift. *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.* (John 1:12).

To accept Jesus as your Savior, pray: *“Dear Father in Heaven, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent and ask that you will forgive me. I accept Jesus as my Savior. From this day forward I will strive to live for Him. Dear Lord Jesus, please come into my heart. Amen.”*

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