

# *Should Christians Always Obey the State?*

*If Jesus is Lord it is not possible or desirable to always obey the government.*

## **A Study on Romans 13**

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# Should Christians Always Obey the State?

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## 1 A KEY OBJECTIVE

*KJV Isaiah 52:1-2 Awake, awake; put on thy strength, [America]; put on thy beautiful garments . . . [Land of the free and home of the brave]: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee **the uncircumcised and the unclean**. Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: **loose thyself from the bands of thy neck**, O captive daughter of Zion.*

In American the beautiful, glorious pilgrims sacrifice life and blood to advance the kingdom of God and to ground this country on the firm foundation of the Word of God but now . . . ?” AWAKE shouts the prophet. America is anesthetized in slumber land by the lame stream media. You are clothed in the wretched rags of immorality by the pathogenic dust stirred up by the film industry. You are governed by alien, pagan, uncircumcised minds such as Clinton, Bush, Obama, Reid, and Pelosi. You are chained to trillions of dollars of debt and cuffed to an unconscionable tax burden created by unconstitutional, atheistic lawyers—a law-order that imprisons political dissidents and promotes a culture of death. **WAKE UP Christians, WAKE UP!**



One reason Christians are asleep, clothed in the ugly rags of humanism, and impotent to unchain themselves from the cuffs of atheism controlling this country is that Christians are shackled to errant beliefs about their duty as Christians to an out-of-control government. The impotence of the church can be traced to bad interpretations and applications of Romans 13—the same errant interpretations and spineless applications apostate ministers in the Lutheran Church shoved down the throats of German Christians prior to and during WWII. Nazi Lutheranism is dogma in the average Evangelical church today.

**You can unchain yourself from the political apostasy of our age** by using **the keys** to properly interpret and apply Romans 13 to your life as an American Christian.

## 2 A KEY QUESTION ON ROMANS 13.

The key question is, “Should Christians Always Obey the State?” The way we interpret and APPLY Romans 13 determines how we interact with government. In our times, preachers have hammered, pounded, and beaten Christians into believing that Romans 13 is a command for unlimited submission to the federal government. This errant preaching has produced passive, effeminate Christians who don’t have the strength of a pretzel when it comes to having a prophetic ministry in a culture intoxicated with pagan, atheistic humanism.

## 2.1 A problem with preachers



A.W. Tozer made one of the most profound statements I've ever heard: ***“Men perform according to their theology, whether it is right or wrong.”*** That is, Christians, good or bad, do what they really believe. Believers will live out their faith whether it is right or wrong. If a Christian believes that he should live out his faith in the arena of politics, he will do so; if he believes that he should not address the political issues of his time, he will be uninvolved and uncommitted to the American process.

For example, Pastor Ray Steadman taught, “obedience is not based upon convenience, but rather it is a responsibility we owe because, as Paul says in Romans 13, *all governments are "ordained of God" (Romans 13:1 KJV),*” (Ray Steadman Sermon: “Can we Trust the Government”).

John McArthur epitomizes the beliefs of most present day Christians:

*“Other than instructing us to be model citizens, Scripture says nothing at all about Christians engaging in politics . . . .There is no biblical mandate for us to spend our time, money, and energy in matters of civil government”*  
[John McArthur, *The Christian and Government, part I*]

*People have mistakenly linked democracy and political freedom to Christianity. That’s why many contemporary evangelicals believe the American Revolution was completely justified, both politically and scripturally. They follow the arguments of the Declaration of Independence, which declares that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are Divinely endowed rights. . . . But such a position is contrary to the clear teachings and commands of Romans 13:1-7. So the United States was actually born out of a violation of New Testament principles, and any blessings God has bestowed on America have come in spite of that disobedience by the Founding Fathers.*  
[Quoted by David Barton, May 2009 on Romans 13 and rebellion]

Oklahoma church leader Albert Soto:

*The Colonists’ act of rebellion flies in the face of [Romans 13:1,2]. Did they overlook this verse? No, these were not men ignorant of Scripture. In fact, they used Scripture to support their cause in the most devious of ways. The deception that prevailed during this period of history was immense. God and Scripture was the vehicle of mobilization that unified the cause, gave it credence, and allowed the Deist leaders at the top to move the masses toward rebellion. Scripture was the Forefathers’ most useful tool of propaganda.*  
[Quoted by David Barton May 2009 on Romans 13 and rebellion]

Dr. Daryl Cornett of Mid-America Theological Seminary:

1 *Deistic and Unitarian tendencies in regards to religion. . . . were of such strength that*  
2 *even orthodox Christians were swept up into rebellion against their governing*  
3 *authorities. . . . Those Christians who supported physical resistance against the tyranny*  
4 *of Britain generally turned to Enlightenment rhetoric for validation, propped up by*  
5 *poor exegesis and application of the Bible*  
6 *[Quoted by David Barton May 2009 on Romans 13 and rebellion]*

7 David Steward recognizes the problem:

8 *It is tragic that most Bible-believing Christians today are misguided concerning*  
9 *Biblical submission to government. God never intended for Christians to blindly yield to*  
10 *government tyranny, blatant abusive of power, and treason against it's own citizens.*  
11 *What ever happened to the Bill of Rights?*  
12 *[Jesus is Savior.com/Should Christians Obey Criminal Government?]*

13 Chuck Baldwin, presidential candidate in 2008, chides Christians:

14 *"We Christians must submit to government. Any government. Read your Bible, and*  
15 *leave me alone," or words to that effect" represent the attitudes of Christians*  
16 *[Chuck Baldwin February 27, 2009, NewsWithViews.com]*

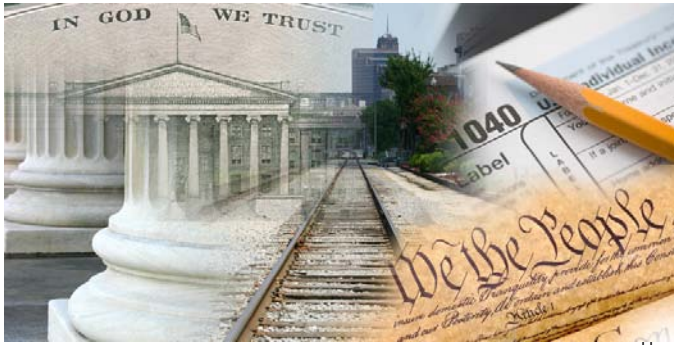
17 The average preacher today has bought into statism--the belief that government is god and that it is the  
18 unequivocal duty of Christians to always obey the State; that is, a good little Christian never questions  
19 authority, proudly says the Pledge of Allegiance, sings the national anthem with his hand across his  
20 heart, gladly writes his social security number on voting registrations, always crosses his t's and dots  
21 his i's on government forms, informs the State where all his money is located, takes all recommended  
22 vaccinations and flu shots, and always drives under the speed limit, and of course, dutifully buckles his  
23 seat belt. This unbalanced teaching has produced a generation of weak, unthinking, mamsy-pamsy,  
24 effeminate Christians that have the discernment of a toddler and more sugar than the fairy godmother.

## 25 **2.2 The problem of an unbalanced view of Romans 13**

26 The result of Christians withdrawing from the dirt and grit of the political arena is that legislators have  
27 generated liberal laws that have spawned a generation of baby-killers working in America's death  
28 camps and Sodomites teaching in our schools.

29 On the other hand, Christians do not promote anarchy nor are they zealot revolutionaries that seek to  
30 overthrow governments. We can't live without good government, but neither can we live with bad  
31 government and bad laws. We do not want to get rid of a righteous government; we want to get rid of  
32 wickedness in government. We are not against good rulers; we are against godless rulers. We are not  
33 against the *rule of law*, but we are against the *rule by law*. We are not against Christians preaching the  
34 gospel who are not involved in politics; but we are against Christian pastors who teach that Christians  
35 should not be responsible citizens in an institution created by God! We are not against Christians  
36 obeying God's moral law, but we are against Christians that are willing to trade blind obedience and  
37 silent submission for the promise of pseudo protection by the state. We are not against freedom-lovers,  
38 but we are against the mind-set of slaves. While Romans thirteen supplies general instruction on the  
39 authority of civil government and the duty of citizens to be generally subject to those powers, **the**  
40 **whole of Scripture does not support unlimited obedience to any State.**

## 2.3 We don't need permission from government



If we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, do we need the permission of government to get a job, run a business, or own a weapon? Do we need the permission of a thief to stop him from stealing our car or are we going to marshal our forces and stop him. If tyrants are stomping on our rights, do we need permission to stop them? Incredibly, most Christians think like slaves and don't believe they can do anything without the permission of the State.

Most don't believe you have a right to marry without obtaining a license from a county clerk. Most don't even believe you can start a church without applying to the government to be a state-approved. Is something wrong with this picture? We error when we fail to think like free men and act like vassals; that is, that we are obligated to obey whatever stupid laws the NWO politicians decide to stuff down our throats.

## 2.4 Tension between freedom and responsibility

We are not advocating anarchy. We must keep in mind that there is a dynamic tension between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of men; between one's duty to God and one's duty to his fellow man; between being in the world, and not of the world; between obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ and obedience to the policies of the State; between the sovereignty of God and the "free-will" of man; between being a freedom fighter and obedience to God-given authority and an anarchist and perverted libertarian. *Maturity demands we hold two opposing truths in dynamic tension without letting go of either.*

## 2.5 Americans are not under a monarchy

Furthermore, we must keep in mind before we apply this passage that America does not have a monarchy. Christians are not subjects of a king nor is the president a sovereign over the citizens of this nation. The founding fathers did not create a society for Americans are to be slaves on the federal plantation in Washington D.C. The president is not the commander and chief of the American people, but the commander and chief of the armed forces! Any legitimate application of this passage must consider our unique form of government. Americans are not under Roman law—law that empowers government to do whatever it wants. We live in a constitutional republic, howbeit, shackled by maritime, statutory law.

## 3 A KEY COMMENTARY ON ROMANS 13:1-8

### 3.1 Romans 13:1

*Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*

1 NOTICE that government is a religious and theological issue. When Christian pastors teach that the  
2 subject of government is purely a secular endeavor and something good Christians should avoid, they  
3 error! The text “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” not only applies to me, but to  
4 all men, and all of man’s institutions. Legitimate governments exist by divine decree and God wants  
5 this institution to recognize his authority over it / them (Hebrews 2). The whole idea that government is  
6 a secular entity and concern is the result of humanistic<sup>1</sup> propaganda—a perversion of the doctrine of  
7 separation of church and State designed to muzzle Christians from speaking out on political issues.

8 Question: *Is every government on earth established by God? That is, did God ordain Nimrod, the*  
9 *Pharaohs, the Viking kings, the Huns, the Cananite kings, Mussolini, Hitler, Pol Pot, Stalin, and other*  
10 *tyrants and expect believers to submit to their every whim and wish?*

11 The "Authorized King James Version" reads (Romans 13:1), "Let every soul be subject unto the higher  
12 powers. For there is no power but of God." Modern translators have empowered the overreaching state  
13 and hindered individual liberty by wrongly translating this verse. Take for example the following: The  
14 *New American Bible* (1970) reads, "Let everyone obey the authorities that are over him, for there is no  
15 authority except from God;" *The Living Bible* (1971) reads "Obey the government, for God is the one  
16 who has put it there;" and *The Good News Translation* (1976), reads "Everyone must obey the state  
17 authorities, because no authority exists without God’s permission."

18 Paul was writing to the saints in Rome (Romans 1:7). To understand government, we must begin with  
19 the sovereignty of God. The genitive “of God” in Romans 13:1 informs us that God is the source of  
20 state authority. The term “*ordained*” (*tasso*) means “to put in order,” or “to arrange,” or “to  
21 designate.” The second clause reads, “. . . for there is no power but of God.” The Greek reads, “ου  
22 γαρ εστιν ενχουσι,α εις μη. υπο. θεου/,” or “there is no authority **if not** from  
23 God.” The “if not” is usually translated “except”, but literally means, “if not.” The government to  
24 which Christians are commanded to submit is one that seeks to arrange itself under Christ and under  
25 His laws. That is, Paul is not teaching that every government is ordained of God, **BUT that there is no**  
26 **duly authorized authority unless God ordains it!** All man-made government organized around  
27 humanistic principles are *de facto*<sup>2</sup> governments lacking God-sanctioned, *de jure* power. J.B. Phillips  
28 agreed when he translated this verse as follows:

29 “Everyone ought to obey civil authorities, for all legitimate authority is derived from  
30 God’s authority.”  
31 (*Emphasis mine*)

32 Any belief that Christians have an unlimited duty to obey the humanistic state is neither Scriptural or  
33 practical. **If Jesus is Lord, it is not possible or desirable to always obey the state.**

34 The verb “subject” (υποτασσε, sqw) is a present, passive, imperative. It is a command placing a  
35 duty on every soul to be continually in submission to **God-ordained authorities**.

36 The text says, “Let every soul be subject to the higher powers.” The plural noun “*authorities*” informs  
37 us that there are multiple jurisdictions and levels of authority within institutions. “Every soul” includes

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<sup>1</sup> “Humanism as used in this document refers to man-made laws and values germane to uncircumcised, pagan minds”  
[Isaiah 52:1].

<sup>2</sup> “. . . a person who exercises unlawful authority, or lawful authority in an unlawful manner . . .”  
[Webster’s American Dictionary of the English Language.]

1 kings, prime ministers, presidents, governors, generals, and sheriffs, and mayors. God not only  
2 commands the people, but princes to be in submission to Him. Civil rulers are not above the law. The  
3 government to which God requires Christians to reverently submit is a government that derives its  
4 authority from Yahweh and organizes its penal code around the principles and precepts in God's Word.  
5 Can we imagine a more loving plan for government than one appointed of God that acknowledges the  
6 authority of Christ, that encourages us to pursue virtue, to protect our God-given rights, to grant to us  
7 freedom to pursue every good that promotes human happiness, to restrain every lascivious behavior, to  
8 protect us from that which would hurt us, and to prosecute every criminal activity with zeal and fervor.  
9 Only this kind of government is ordained of God. All others are usurpers and pretenders—that is, de  
10 facto governments. Any obedience rendered to de facto rulers is out of fear, and even that, in a limited  
11 way. Christians are not to make an idol out of government and submit to its every whim!

12 The adjective “all” (Πᾶ/σα) is in the emphatic position emphasizing the fact that God wants all men to  
13 obey the command—and, this includes civil rulers who are under duty to obey God's law . . . and their  
14 own statutes for that matter. Civil rulers have a duty to be thoroughly Christian and “to seek first the  
15 kingdom (rule) of God” (Matthew 6:33). It is the failure of government to obey its own laws that  
16 caused Judge Andrew P. Napolitano to issue this warning, “*Because the government breaks the law  
17 and denies it, the government is not your friend*” (*Constitutional Chaos*, p. ix). I would add: *Because  
18 the present state does not acknowledge the Law of God, the government is your enemy.*

19 In saying there is no authority except from God, Paul is not teaching that every politician is from God.  
20 This would be ludicrous. It would be an error to believe that a Pol Pot or a Stalin or a Hitler is ordained  
21 of God and that our Lord requires silent acquiesce to tyranny. This would be like saying it is good to  
22 submit to evil. “Authority” here must be interpreted in a broad, institutional sense; that is, that God has  
23 ordained the general institution of government. Furthermore, the imperative to “be subject” is not  
24 dependent upon the form of government whether it be a dictatorship, a monarchy, a parliament,  
25 republic, or democracy. Any form of government is acceptable to God when that government  
26 acknowledges His sovereignty and limits its activities to His divinely appointed purpose. The whole  
27 idea that democracy is superior to a benevolent monarchy is nothing more than communist  
28 propaganda.

29 God not only ordains the institution of government, He has a hand in the selection of its leaders. He  
30 appoints good rulers to an obedient people and He appoints foolish rulers to irresponsible populations  
31 (See Isaiah 19:11). God not only promotes good magistrates, He demotes others. Promotion comes not  
32 from east and west, but from God (Hebrews 7:5, 6, 7). However, rulers do rise to power that are not  
33 from God. Some rulers are vessels of glory and others are vessels of wrath (Romans 9:22). Some rulers  
34 are in place as **a reward for obedience**, and **others are in place to test Christians to see if they will**  
35 **obey God rather than man** (Daniel 8:2; 13:3; Isaiah 52:1-9)! Selah!

36 *Hosea at 8:4, “They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I*  
37 *knew it not.”*

38 God did not abdicate His sovereignty when He ordained civil authority on earth: “*The LORD hath*  
39 *prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all*” (Hebrews 103:19) because He is  
40 the “King of the nations” (Jeremiah 10:7). All who receive power are responsible to God and held  
41 accountable to Him. The God of the Bible called Nineveh to repent (John 3:2ff), judged Egypt for its  
42 sins (Isaiah 19:1-25), and weighed Babylon (Belshazzar) in His scales (Daniel 5:27). If the ultimate  
43 authority is man, then all things must serve man and surrender to man's authority. If the ultimate

1 authority is the Christian God, then all rulers and their governments must serve Him and surrender to  
2 His Law-word.

3 But, even God-given civil authority is limited. For example, God delegates authority to the husband to  
4 govern his home, but that authority is bound to his home and to his home alone. Wives are called to be  
5 submissive to their own husbands, and even then, submission is limited to virtuous directives. Just as it  
6 would be wrong for one man to tell another man's wife how to run her home, it would be wrong for a  
7 government to dictate how individual families should govern their families. God commands children to  
8 obey their parents but even this obedience is limited by the phrase, "*in the Lord*" (Ephesians 6:1).  
9 Though commands are delivered in absolute terms, can anyone believe that God requires children,  
10 wives, and citizens to *always* obey without questioning the virtue of an order just because these  
11 universal admonitions are delivered in absolute language? ***The use of absolute expressions in these  
12 passages is not a proof that disobedience to civil authority is always a sin or that absolute allegiance  
13 to a State is always virtuous.***

14 William Holmes McGuffey informs us that in early America that when settlers established townships,  
15 the men of the town organized themselves into a church, and built a building. After building their  
16 chapel, they established magistrates from church members, and enacted penal codes in harmony with  
17 the Torah/Pentateuch. "God was their King, and they regarded him as truly and literally so . . ." <sup>1</sup>

18 The Holocaust and the Nuremberg trials have taught us that tyranny thrives in an environment where  
19 no one questions authority or no inferior has a God-given duty to resist unjust orders. Propaganda that  
20 indoctrinates the public to perform with conformity is the tool of tyrants . . . and, unfortunately, many  
21 pastors are being used as tools of the state to produce compliant, unthinking statist Christians. "It is  
22 ironic that virtues of loyalty, discipline, and self-sacrifice that we value so highly in the individual are  
23 the very properties that create destructive organizational engines of war and bind men to malevolent  
24 systems of authority (Stanley Milgram: Obedience to Authority, 1974, p.188).

25 The departure from God's Word and the Lordship of Jesus Christ has created a generation of driveling  
26 citizens. Stanley Milgram (1933-1984) from Harvard in his research on obedience had this to say about  
27 the psychological state of the average American: "The results, as seen and felt in the laboratory, are to  
28 this author disturbing. They raise the possibility that human nature, or -more specifically-the kind of  
29 character produced in American society, cannot be counted on to insulate the citizens from brutality  
30 and inhumane treatment at the direction of malevolent authority." Milgram was saying that until we  
31 train Christians / citizens to question authority and to know when to disobey and when to obey, we are  
32 producing a generation of citizens not dissimilar to the German bootlickers in the Nazi empire—an  
33 empire where German Christians felt it was their duty to unquestionably obey the Hitler State.

34 **Since the First Commandment obligates a man to rid his life of idolatry (alien law-sources), the**  
35 **first duty of a man is to question authority!** The authority to which God calls a believer to submit is  
36 a government ordered by God---that is, one that acknowledges His supremacy and is surrendered to  
37 His Law-order; in all other administrations, the Christian must be prepared to resist the evil. <sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Do not hear what is not being said. I am not saying that de facto governments are totally worthless and do not in some limited way contribute to modest law and order; nor I am saying that a Christian is not required to honor some statutes generated by these humanistic regimes. But, I am saying that believers must be suspicious and guarded in de facto regimes and be ready to obey God rather than man.

## 3.2 Romans 13:2

*Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.*

*Question: Is resistance to government a sin?* Modern day clergymen have taken this to mean that anyone who resists the State opposes God and will be judged by God. While this is true for God-ordained governments, it is not true for democracies that advance humanistic agendas. So understood was this lesson following the Revolutionary War against tyrants that Thomas Jefferson proposed a symbol on the Great Seal with Moses standing on the shore of the Red Sea extending his rod as the sea raged against Pharaoh and with the words “REBELLION TO TYRANTS IS OBEDIENCE TO GOD” on the outer edge.

***If Jesus is Lord and King, it is not possible or even desirable to obey every human government.*** Not all governments are ordained of God. Many are ordained of man, which means the Christian must have a limited, cautious allegiance to humanistic institutions including a constitutional republic. ***The sovereignty and authority of God is unlimited and unconfined; civil authority is limited and confined.***

The term “*ordinance*” (diatagh/ |) refers to the decree wherein God established His government. The word “*resisteth*” (o` avntitasso, meno j) is a present, middle participle which means “to set one’s self against.” Paul is describing a man who is internally hostile to a God-ordained government. ***To resist a righteous government is to resist the “decree” of God.*** Those who rebel against His authority will receive His judgment. It is rebellion to resist a godly government, but it is not rebellion to resist an ungodly de facto regime that rewrites history to destroy our Christian heritage, promotes Islam, sanctions the murder of the unborn, approves of homosexuality, levies oppressive taxes, is openly hostile to Christian Chaplains praying in the name of Jesus, or orders the Ten Commandments to be taken off courtroom walls. There is nowhere in Scripture where God rewards men for being silent, passive, and servile to an evil government (See Daniel 3:1ff).

We have a parallel passage in I Peter 2:13. Peter exhorts believers to submit to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake. When we think of “ordinance” we should not think of statutes and laws. We have no duty to obey every law of man any more than Daniel had a duty to obey the royal decree of King Darius forbidding men to pray. The word “*ordinance*” (ktisis) means “a creation,” or an “establishment” or an “act of founding.” It refers to the institution of a government ordained of God whether it be a monarchy or democracy or aristocracy or republic. It does not refer to man-made laws. God ordains the institution of government. Man sets it up for the purposes for which God ordained it. God ordained the temple, but men built it. God ordained the tabernacle, but men set it up. When men establish a government built on humanistic principles instead of God’s Word, it joins the rebellion in Hebrews 2. Obedience to humanistic governments requires caution and limited accommodation, and will at times demand a response of resistance.

Paul is not addressing exceptions where God calls men to stand against evil in government. His purpose is not to instruct Christians on how to respond to tyranny; nor is he telling the Romans to be passive, undiscerning sheep under the heavy hand of a Neronic tyrant. If Paul was teaching absolute obedience to Caesar, why was he beheaded? Paul does not expect Christians to have an unlimited commitment to any State. ***This would be idolatrous! The whole of Scripture does not warrant such an interpretation.*** Rather, Paul is instructing Christians on how to respond to good rulers in a God-



1 ordained government. *In our age of humanistic States, there are times when disobedience to*  
2 *government is obedience to God and where obedience to God demands disobedience to the State.*  
3 The Hebrew midwives and Daniel’s three friends are an excellent example of this principle (Exodus  
4 1:15; Daniel 3).

5 *Docile Christians are tools in the hand of a tyrant.* In Nazi Germany, the Lutheran Church acquiesced  
6 to Hitler’s tyranny and were largely silent when Hitler burned 177 synagogues. Erwin Lutzer says that,  
7 “Hitler managed to minimalize the church, to reduce its flame to a flicker.” When the spiritual oatmeal  
8 of Lutheran Christians turned to soggy mush, Hitler called the church submissive as “dogs.” They  
9 didn’t even bark when the killing started.<sup>2</sup> One source said that Hitler’s favorite passage was Romans  
10 13.<sup>3</sup>

### 11 **3.3 Romans 14:3**

12 *For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of*  
13 *the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:*

14 *Question: To whom are Christians to submit?* The noun “rulers” (αἱ ἀρχαὶ) refers to magistrates,  
15 officials, and judges who occupy positions in good government. Bad rulers have contempt for freedom.  
16 God is not requiring obedience to every ruler who has ever squatted upon a throne, but to good rulers  
17 ruling in the fear of God; i.e. “For *good* rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil  
18 *works.*”(Addition mine).

19 Note the word “good.” Only God has the right to define what is “good” and what is “evil.” When men  
20 define “good,” they tolerate adultery, divorce, and even advance gay-lesbian agendas such as making it  
21 a hate crime to speak against homosexuals. “Good works” are to be done by citizens. Good is doing  
22 one’s neighbor no harm. It involves protecting his life, liberty, and property-- even helping him to  
23 prosper in health and wealth. Note the term “*evil.*” Paul is discussing **criminal law**, not civil or  
24 statutory law. It is ridiculous to think that citizens are required to obey every power-grabbing statute  
25 passed by legislatures. All men have a duty to avoid crime and to do what is right, but no man has a  
26 duty to regard all statutory legislation vomited from legislatures drunk with power. Criminal law  
27 consists of “thou shall nots” and is obligatory upon every man. Civil law is voluntary and obligatory  
28 only upon those involved in private contracts. Criminal law requires no man’s consent to be ruled by it,  
29 while civil law *requires the consent* of the individual to be governed thereby. Civil authority exists for  
30 punishing evildoers, lawbreakers, murderers, thieves, and liars. **The purpose of law is not justice, but**  
31 **the punishment of injustice.** Consequently, fear (*phobos*) is a proper motive for obeying God-  
32 ordained civil authority when it comes to criminal statutes. Except in cases of a Hitler or a Mao Tse  
33 Tung or Kim Jong Il, even pagan civil magistrates are usually not a threat to good deeds.

34 And, this is the key: in as far as civil rulers uphold common law, believers should passively honor their  
35 civil rulers. Common law is Biblical law—law that prohibits injury to one’s neighbor or his property.  
36 As long as the State prosecutes criminals that injure others, Christians can survive even in a humanistic  
37 regimes. Conflict arises when the State protects murderers (like abortionists) and punishes Christian  
38 men who expose their murders. Conflict arises when statutory law supplants common law and citizens  
39 are dragged into an alien jurisdiction and prosecuted as criminals for violating some man-made code in  
40 the absence of injury to person or property. In this case, Christians need to demand, insist, and employ  
41 civil rulers to cease and desist their wretched tyranny of rule by law / statute.

1 We have to ask, “What should a Christian do when the government he is suppose to obey becomes an  
2 agent who destroys liberty?” Certainly, **Christians owe civil magistrates obedience and honor; yet**  
3 **when magistrates overstep their Divine limits, they forfeit any right to the Christians' obedience or**  
4 **honor.** We are living at a time when the government protects abortionists (murderers) and  
5 homosexuals, and punishes good men who expose government abuses.

6 Nine weeks pregnant, a troubled (sinful) woman named Tammy Skinner shot herself in the stomach to  
7 kill her baby (February 23, 2006). The State of Virginia did not charge her with a crime because of a  
8 glitch in some statutory code. She deliberately killed her baby and no indictment was handed down.  
9 This kind of injustice deserves a protest by the Christian community. <sup>4</sup>

10 The doctrine of intervention: While Paul is not dealing with exceptions in his discourse, the whole of  
11 Scripture teaches that lower magistrates must confront higher magistrates perpetuating such crimes and  
12 atrocities. If lower magistrates will not confront higher magistrates, then God’s ministers must  
13 intervene and expose their evil deeds as Elijah did when he confronted King Ahab for slandering and  
14 murdering Naboth and seizing his family farm (I Kings 21).

### 15 **3.4 Romans 14:4**

16 *For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be*  
17 *afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to*  
18 *execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.*

19 Question: What is a minister of God and are all civil authorities “ministers of God?” The “sword” is a  
20 symbol of power to execute justice in criminal law—that is, the enforcement of God’s moral law. No  
21 ruler has the right to use the sword to enforce civil law, but even humanistic rulers have a duty to use  
22 the sword to punish those who break penal laws. If one will not obey criminal law out of conscience,  
23 then one should obey out of fear because *godly* magistrates have authority from God to carry a sword  
24 and to use it to enforce the Law of God.

25 Paul describes these magistrates with two terms. First, term “*minister*” is the Greek word *diakonos*  
26 (*dia, kono, j*). We get the word “*deacon*” or “*servant*” from this word. God-appointed civil  
27 authorities are called *deacons of God*; that is, they are called to serve God as ministers of justice.  
28 Second, the magistrates are called a “revenger.” The term “*revenger*” could be translated as “one  
29 empowered to inflict wrath” (*e;kdikoj eivj ovrgn*); that is, civil authority is under  
30 command from God to punish criminals. Law is negative. It is designed to punish injustice rather than  
31 promote justice. Justice is achieved only when injustice is punished in society. David said magistrates  
32 must be just ruling in the fear of God (2 Samuel 23:3). Who is a minister of God if not one who is  
33 ordained of God and enforces God’s laws. A man-appointed magistrate that will not punish criminal  
34 behavior nor enforce God’s penal codes, IS NOT A MINISTER OF GOD!! A federal S.W.A.T team  
35 armed to the teeth ready to lynch and shoot some civilian because he resisted some federal tax scheme  
36 IS NOT A MINISTER OF GOD!!

37 “Good” must be defined. **Only God has the right to define what is good!** When humanists define the  
38 term “*good*”, they tolerate infanticide and legal plunder. If the Bible is not the standard for what is  
39 good, then chaos will engulf the culture. It is not good for the church to pick up the sword and  
40 administer justice anymore than it is good for government to engage in philanthropy. Government is  
41 good when it punishes the wicked and protects the righteous. Our forefathers put it this way in The

1 Declaration of Independence: *“To secure these rights (life, liberty, property), governments are*  
2 *instituted among men.”* It is good when magistrates punish those who take life through murder, take  
3 freedom through oppression, and take property through theft. It is bad when the government protects  
4 murderers, enslaves its people, or plunders property through taxation and doctrines of eminent domain.  
5 When the government is involved in education, charity, and must approve what color a man can paint  
6 his bathroom, it steps outside its divine authority.<sup>5</sup>

7 But, the problem is more insidious in America. Take the phrase, “You should work within the system.”  
8 What is really being said is that “You have no right to question authority, just do what you’re told.”

9 Slave: "Master, please stop whipping me?"  
10 Master: "No." <Whack!>  
11 Slave: "Ow. Please stop whippin' me. It hurts"  
12 Master: "No." <Whack!>  
13 Slave: "Ow. Darn. Guess I's jus gotta work within the system."

14 The biggest threat to freedom in any nation is the government!! The government has an unsatiable  
15 desire to control human thought and behavior. The Declaration of Independence speaks of unalienable  
16 individual rights—rights which do not come from "government," and which no "government" has the  
17 right to winnow by acts of legislation. Why, then, when the politicians violate these rights (as they do  
18 on a daily basis), do we ask THEM to please stop whipping us. Let’s put it another way. When an  
19 official from some agency attempts to take away a right, we have a duty to use deadly/legal force to  
20 prevent the theft of our rights—and this is never more true when it the state seeks to disarm its people  
21 through unconstitutional legislation.

22 Thus, while it is the duty of Christians not to resist good laws and godly rulers, it is a Christian’s duty  
23 to resist bad laws and evil rulers.

24 *“Resistance to tyranny is service to God.”*  
25 *[James Madison]*

26 *Hebrews 59:13 Destroy them in wrath, destroy them, that they may be no more; That*  
27 *men may know that God rules in Jacob, To the ends of the earth.*

28 *Hebrews 109:8 Let his days be few; and let another take his office (Example of*  
29 *resistance by prayer).*

30 *When the government fears the people, it is liberty. When the people fear the*  
31 *government, it is tyranny.*  
32 *[Thomas Paine]*

### 33 **3.5 Romans 13:5**

34 *Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.*

35 The term “*must needs*” (avna , gkh) is a Greek noun implying constraint or compulsion or necessity.  
36 It is one’s Christian duty to be subject to God-ordained authority; that is to civil magistrates who carry  
37 out the legitimate purposes of government.

1 Paul gives two reasons to submit to civil authorities. First, a person may submit out of fear of  
2 punishment by an officer, and second a person may submit out of conscience (duty to Christ). God  
3 approves of submission out of conscience; that is, it is a duty laid upon men by God to submit to a  
4 good government and to pay legitimate taxes. God also approves of submitting to civil authorities out  
5 of fear of being punished; that is, out of fear of breaking God's law. Fear is the reason pagans submit  
6 to law. Fear is also an acceptable motive for compliance when the government regularly punishes  
7 political opponents.

8 *“The government regularly prosecutes Americans for speaking freely and punishes*  
9 *them when they say things that the government doesn't want to hear”*  
10 *[Judge Napolitano, Constitutional Chaos, p. X].]*

11 But, ***obedience out of conscience to a disobedient government is not acceptable!*** It is destable!! In  
12 fact, fear is the only acceptable motive for submission when a government acts outside its authority,  
13 usurps authority, or neglects its administration of God's laws. When governments are good, Christians  
14 should submit out of conscience; when governments act badly, Christians may choose to submit out of  
15 fear. But, even in this case, resistance may be the will of God. As obedience to good laws and godly  
16 authority is the will of God, disobedience to bad laws and godless authority is also counted as  
17 obedience to God. But the individual exercising civil disobedience must also be prepared to pay the  
18 price by the corrupt court.

19 Paul could not possibly be implying that Christians must always obey the State. This interpretation  
20 would not only play right into the hands of tyrants, it flies in the face of the whole of Scripture and the  
21 duty of Christians to always obey the Lord.

22 Though Paul does not address this issue, we should ask, ***“What should people do when civil authority***  
23 ***that is suppose to punish evil actually protects the wicked and punishes the righteous?”*** Policemen  
24 are often involved in carrying out evil deeds. Isn't this what happened when Herod's henchmen  
25 beheaded John the Baptist? Isn't this what happen when Rome crucified Christ? Isn't this what  
26 happened in Nazi Germany when Hitler arrested and executed Dietrich Bonhoeffer? The Nazi party  
27 seized the property of Jews and murdered them. Considering Jews as “non persons” they ordered them  
28 to be exterminated. Isn't the modern state stealing from citizens and enriching itself when it charges  
29 citizens with statutory crimes and seizes property of the accused?

30 In Biblical thinking, civil government is covenantal in nature. The king agreed to keep the law and the  
31 people agreed to rule and support their king. When a monarch obeys God, it is the duty of the people to  
32 be subject to the king's law. The people are called the Lord's people and the king is governor of His  
33 inheritance. The people must remain the people of God, His property, and His possession at all times.  
34 The king is not the owner of the people but a shepherd of the people. The king agreed to rule faithfully  
35 and the people agreed to obey as long as he lived in submission to God (2 Kings 11:17; I Chronicles  
36 11:3; 2 Chronicles 23:2, 3, 16). This was the hard lesson David learned (1 Samuel 24).

37 Certainly, Christians owe godly civil magistrates obedience and honor; yet when magistrates overstep  
38 their Divine authority, they forfeit their expectation of Christians' obedience. ***In a covenantal***  
39 ***government, if the king disobeyed God, the people were no longer under a duty to obey the king.***  
40 When the spies searched Jericho, they made a covenant with Rahab. Israel would protect her as long as  
41 she stayed in her house. If she broke the covenant and left her house, Israel was no longer under  
42 obligation to save her. In Lex Rex, **people are not obligated to obey the king if the king does not**

1 **obey the law.** When the king becomes a tyrant and breaks covenant, power reverts back to the people.  
2 Timid people may submit out of fear, but not out of conscience. In such cases it was the duty of lower  
3 magistrates to confront errant rulers above them.

4 In 2 Kings 17:6ff, the Lord iterates why Israel was expelled from the land. They were taken to  
5 Babylon, not because they disobeyed their kings, but **because they obeyed their wicked kings** and  
6 failed to confront them for their disobedience to God's law; that is, they became complicit with evil  
7 through **the sin of silence**. Compliant Christians play into the hands of tyrants, and offend the justice  
8 of God.

9 Germany was destroyed, not only because Hitler was a tyrant that attacked his neighbors, but because  
10 the church lacked the conviction and moral courage to resist this dictator. The Christians in Germany  
11 were like jello nailed to the wall. The power of darkness smothered the flickering candlelight of the  
12 Lutheran Church. Christianity was no longer worth suffering for, much less dying for.<sup>6</sup>

13 This means that pastors must teach people not only to obey righteous authority, but how to resist  
14 unrighteous rulers wearing a smile and a blue suit. Not only is disobedience to lawful authority a major  
15 societal problem, failure to resist unlawful acts from people in authority is just as problematic. We are  
16 not to fear man; that is, we are not to fear men in positions of authority that have the power to  
17 confiscate our property and to jail our person. By faith, we surrender to godly magistrates, and by faith  
18 we must resist bad laws and errant rulers (Hebrews 10:34).

### 19 **3.6 Romans 13:6**

20 *For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually*  
21 *upon this very thing.*

22 Governments must be supported and the way governments support themselves is through a system of  
23 taxation. Taxation is a legitimate principle in Scripture. The term "*tribute*" refers to a mandatory tax  
24 on a subjugated people—a poll tax for example.

25 God calls government, "His ministers". This term for "*minister*" (*leitourgoi*.) is different from  
26 the one in verse four. This Greek word is *letourgos*. It refers to temple servants--those involved in  
27 religious duties at the temple (Hebrews 8:2). In using this term, God places a religious duty upon  
28 magistrates to be His servants and to obey His law. Government exists for the worship of God and all  
29 service should glorify Him. When magistrates acknowledge the sovereignty of God and His Law, they  
30 are ministers to His glory. When they fail to acknowledge the rule of God or His Law, they cease to be  
31 His ministers! In so doing they join "the rulers" in Hebrews two that "*take counsel together, against*  
32 *the LORD, and against his anointed.*"

33 Our forefathers clearly recognized the problem when they said, "*that mankind are more disposed to*  
34 *suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are*  
35 *accustomed*" (The Declaration of Independence).

36 While governments have a right to place taxes on government privileges, no government has a right to  
37 tax the income of its people! No government! Evil governments commit more thefts in the name of  
38 taxation than any other category of legislation. ***While a Christian has a duty to pay lawful, legitimate***  
39 ***taxes, he also has a duty to resist unlawful, and unconstitutional forms of taxation.***

### 1 **3.7 Romans 13:7**

2 *Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom*  
3 *custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.*

4 The verb “render” (*apodidimai*) is an imperative which means “to pay.” The term “*dues*” refers to  
5 legitimate debts for government services.

6 The term raises an issue, “What is legitimately due in this country?”

7 Surely, Paul is not saying Christians should give government everything they want. The  
8 Commandment, “Thou shall not steal,” not only applies to individuals but to governments. A tax  
9 liability is a legal, lawful debt that should be paid. “Tribute” is a mandatory direct tax upon subjugated  
10 people. The term “*custom*” is a voluntary, indirect tax upon goods and services. It is avoidable. If  
11 citizens are engaged in a taxable activity that has a custom duty upon it, the custom must be paid.

12 Three things are to be rendered to civil authorities: taxes, fear, and honor. Taxes are needed to support  
13 the government. Fear is deserved because government is sheer power. Honor is due because the office  
14 of a legitimate magistrate is appointed by God. ***We are not required to pay unlawful taxes, to fear***  
15 ***tyrants, or to honor a disobedient public servant.*** It is, however, much easier to pay taxes, to fear  
16 authority, and to honor magistrates when they obey God’s law and serve within the restraints of the  
17 law. Indeed, it is a privilege to pay taxes, to fear magistrates, and to honor public servants that perform  
18 their duties as ministers of God.

19 However, this passage needs to be applied very carefully. Americans are not a subjugated people—at  
20 least not suppose to be. We are not required to pay tribute. In America, we do not have a king. We are  
21 not a monarchy. The People are considered sovereigns in the political sense and civil magistrates are  
22 considered public servants.<sup>4</sup> As to taxing power, the Constitution restricts Congress from taxing  
23 anything it wants. In order to understand what is taxable and what is not taxable, the citizen should  
24 consult the laws of the nation where he resides. In America, the Constitution limits Congress on what it  
25 can tax and in no way empowers this branch of government to tax personal incomes. Private preamble  
26 citizens are not within the jurisdiction of the federal government nor are they within its taxing power.  
27 A great cloud of deception hangs over this nation and the Christian would do well to carefully study  
28 the taxing laws and understand the legalese and entrapment scheme of our de facto rulers.

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4 Sovereignty itself is, of course, not subject to law, for it is the author and source of law; but in our system, while sovereign powers are delegated to the agencies of government, sovereignty itself remains with the people, by whom and for whom all government exists and acts. And the law is the definition and limitation of power. It is indeed, quite true, that there must always be lodged somewhere, and in some person or body, the authority of final decision; and in many cases of mere administration the responsibility is purely political, no appeal except to the ultimate tribunal of the public judgment, exercised either in the pressure of opinion or by means of the suffrage. But the fundamental rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, considered as individual possessions, are secured by those maxims of constitutional law which are the monuments showing the victorious progress of the race in securing to men the blessings of civilization under the reign of just and equal laws, so that, in the famous language of the Massachusetts Bill of Rights, the government of the commonwealth "may be a government of laws and not of men." For, the very idea that one man may be compelled to hold his life, or the means of living, or any material right essential to the enjoyment of life, at the mere will of another, seems to be intolerable in any country where freedom prevails, as being the essence of slavery itself.

[*Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356, 370 (1886)].

1 Finally, there is a moral and ethical question: *Are Christians required to finance governments when*  
2 *they use tax money to support the murder of the unborn, indoctrinate a nation in humanism, protect*  
3 *homosexuals, and pass out birth control to eleven year old girls?*

4 The answer is found in 2 Chronicles 19:2, “And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him  
5 and said to King Jehoshaphat, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD and so  
6 bring wrath on yourself from the LORD?” However, saying this is much easier than doing something  
7 about it. One could lose all that they have if practically applied. Maybe it is time to pass out some  
8 crosses.

### 9 **3.8 Romans 13:8**

10 *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled*  
11 *the law.*

12 Owe no man anything does not exclude borrowing. It simply means that when one commits to a bona  
13 fide contract, he should make his payments on schedule. The only debt that is to be left outstanding is  
14 the perpetual duty to love one another. All of God’s commandments can be summed up with the word  
15 “love.” Love does no harm to one’s neighbor.

16 In conclusion, Paul’s treatise on God and government was meant to apply to all kinds of political  
17 systems throughout the ages. Good government is an ordained institution of God for the purpose of  
18 punishing evil (crime) as defined by God’s Word and to protect those who do good. God is sovereign  
19 over the nations and all civil rulers are responsible to Him. God’s magistrates are called “rulers”,  
20 “deacons,” “ministers” and “revengers of wrath.” Government is called to obey God’s Law. Christians  
21 are called to pay lawful taxes, live in fear, and show respect to those whom honor is due.

22 The context of government in this passage has to do with Biblical law or what we know as common  
23 law. He is not telling us to submit to private law or civil law without our consent. Common law has  
24 universal application, while civil law has a narrow application to special persons. Common law appeals  
25 to the conscience, while civil law appeals to the law of contracts. The former is mandatory and binding  
26 on all men while the later is voluntary and binding only on those who consent to be ruled by contract.

27 Paul does not deal with the exceptions in this passage. But, the whole of Scripture teaches us that  
28 nations are in rebellion against God and His Son (Hebrews 2), and that Christians need to be prepared  
29 to respond to civil rulers that do not honor God or His Law. Government is not god! The president is  
30 not a king! Sometimes Christians are called to disobey civil rulers in order to obey Christ. Many  
31 Christian heroes were lawbreakers. John Bunyan sat in jail for refusing to accept a license to preach.  
32 Richard Wurmbrand was beaten because he defied communism and smuggled Bibles into communist  
33 Romania. Robert E. Lee was stalked by the local sheriff because he taught slaves to read the Bible.  
34 Christians have always acknowledged a higher law than that of the State. He is the Higher Authority  
35 over “higher authorities.” When governments acknowledge God’s sovereignty and obey His law, it is  
36 easier for Christians to submit to such authorities. When governments step outside their God-given  
37 authority, Christians may resist, but they may also have to pay the consequences for their resistance. In  
38 this case, courage should be admired and submission out of fear must be pitied.

39 In applying this passage, the believer is called to understand the nature of our constitutional republic  
40 and the fact that the government is not above the law. In our system, the government is subject to the

1 laws of nature and of nature's God and the law of WE THE PEOPLE<sup>5</sup>. The people have no duties  
2 placed upon them in the Constitution. Duties are placed on government. To understand these  
3 obligations one needs to consult the Constitution and the Laws passed by Congress and the legislatures  
4 of the State wherein they reside. Finally, always obey Christ, and obey the state, but not always! We  
5 are not slaves and we need to stop thinking we need the permission of government for everything we  
6 do. We do not need the permission of government to do good, get a job, or conduct a business.

7 *"If we say that we will always obey the State, the State becomes our God"*<sup>7</sup>  
8 *[Pastor Erwin Lutzer]*

#### 9 **4 A KEY REFLECTION ON ROMANS 13**

10 *Statesmen, my dear Sir, may plan and speculate for liberty, but it is religion and*  
11 *morality alone, which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely*  
12 *stand. **The only foundation of a free Constitution is pure virtue**, and if this cannot be*  
13 *inspired into our People in a greater Measure than they have it now, they may change*  
14 *their rulers and the forms of government, but they will not obtain a lasting liberty (John*  
15 *Adams).*

16 He was a gladiator Christian who refused to follow a court order by a federal judge—but, it cost him  
17 dearly. On November 12, 2003 Attorney General Prior asked him if he would continue to disobey the  
18 judicial order. "Absolutely," he replied. The next day or thereabouts, Chief Justice Moore was  
19 removed from office because he defied the orders of a United States district court Judge. His crime?  
20 ***"Daring to acknowledge God when an oppressive federal judiciary had told him not to do so."***<sup>8</sup>  
21 Moore explains the ultimate issue, ". . . whether these United States and our elected officials will be  
22 permitted to acknowledge God as the moral foundation of our law and justice system."<sup>9</sup>



23 Apparently, Judge Moore did not interpret Romans 13 the way most preachers  
24 do. He did not fall under the spell that government is god and that good  
25 Christians always obey the State.

26 Furthermore, there was a jurisdictional issue: What authority does a federal  
27 judge have over a state judge? The states created the federal government, not  
28 the federal government the states. Edward Abbey, author, and to some an  
29 eccentric said the following: ***"A patriot must always be ready to defend his***  
30 ***country against his government."***<sup>10</sup>

31 Following the Hurricane Katrina disaster, in violation of the Second  
32 Amendment, the United States armed forces went door to door in full gear

<sup>5</sup> "Sovereignty itself is, of course, not subject to law, for it is the author and source of law; but **in our system, while sovereign powers are delegated to the agencies of government, sovereignty itself remains with the people, by whom and for whom all government exists and acts.**"  
[Yick Wo v. Hopkins, [118 U.S. 356](#); 6 S.Ct. 1064 (1886)]

"The people of this State, as the successors of its former sovereign, are entitled to all the rights which formerly belonged to the King by his prerogative. **Through the medium of their Legislature they may exercise all the powers which previous to the Revolution could have been exercised either by the King alone**, or by him in conjunction with his Parliament; subject only to those restrictions which have been imposed by the Constitution of this State or of the U.S."  
[Lansing v. Smith, 21 D. 89., 4 Wendel 9 (1829) (New York)]



1 demanding by force that victims yield their guns to government troops out of concerns for “public  
2 safety.” To help enforce this unconstitutional martial law, the government enlisted the aid of pastors to  
3 assist the government to disobey the Constitution. The enlisted clergy were called, “The Pastor  
4 Response Team.” Using Romans 13, the government turned pastors into vassals of the government’s  
5 agenda to disarm the people. Does Hitler’s Germany ring a bell?

6 *A Pastor has come forward to blow the whistle on a nationwide FEMA program which*  
7 *is training Pastors and other religious representatives to become secret police enforcers*  
8 *who teach their congregations to "obey the government" in preparation for a declaration*  
9 *of martial law, property and firearm seizures, and forced relocation*  
10 *[Secret FEMA Plan To Use Pastors as Pacifiers in Preparation For Martial Law.*  
11 *Prisonplanet.com].*

12 Romans 13 is often interpreted as requiring **unlimited obedience** to civil authority from believers just  
13 because civil authority exists regardless of its moral character. “To Be A Christian Organization”  
14 represents the majority view when clergymen teach that “Paul exhorted us to be subject to higher  
15 powers. The authorities that exist have been established by God to promote order. Paul warned us that  
16 to resist authority is to rebel against God. Paul continues to exhort Christians to pray for the  
17 government and pay their taxes.” This simplistic exhortation not only produces weak, passive,  
18 effeminate Christians, it plays into the hand of greedy politicians hell-bent on extending the power of  
19 the State into every nook and cranny of our lives including the plundering of our wealth by stealthy  
20 propaganda regarding taxation (See; *The Christian and Government:*  
21 <http://tobechristian.org/Chapter%20III-2-government.htm>).

22 The Scripture is the authority on all subjects on which it speaks, and it is the sufficient guide for all  
23 civil rulers on how to fulfill the State’s God-given purpose. We believe in the plenary interpretation of  
24 Scripture in that every passage of Scripture must submit to the whole of God’s revelation; that is,  
25 Romans 13 must be interpreted in light of the rest of Scripture.

26 *2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain*  
27 *unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and*  
28 *virtue:*

29 Romans 13 supplies general information about the institution of government and general instructions  
30 about the Christian’s duty to these authorities. It is not within Paul’s purpose to instruct the believers  
31 on exceptions to the rule of submission to authority. However, because modern day preachers have  
32 taken a sledgehammer and pounded the doctrine of unlimited submission on to church doors, this brief  
33 addresses “the rest of the story” as Paul Harvey would say.

#### 34 **4.1 Interpretation v. Application:**

35 Distinguishing between interpretation and application is paramount in Romans 13. The problem is not  
36 so much with the interpretation of the passage or normal exegesis, but with its application. When  
37 applying this passage, expositors must remember that America is not a democracy, but a republic; that  
38 the United States, Inc. is not a republic, but a democratic corporation; that Americans are not subjects,  
39 but sovereigns (masters in the political sense); that there is a difference between authority and power;  
40 that the government is to be subject to the Word of God, not the Word of God subject to the  
41 government; that the federal government is to honor the will of the people, not the People the will of

1 the state; that the supreme law of the land is the constitution and that inferior laws must be consistent  
2 with the constitution; that citizens have rights and that the government has power; that citizens have no  
3 duty to the government, but the government has a duty to the people; that the government is  
4 responsible to obey its own law.

5 To apply this passage to Christian Americans as if they were serfs and vassals of some European king  
6 is injudicious.

7 Second, expositors must recognize not only *juris* (good use of law) but *lex* (raw power of law). There  
8 is the way things are suppose to be and the way things are. There is a de jure government, and then  
9 there is the de facto government. Take Queen Athaliah for example (835 BC)(2 Kings 11): The de jure  
10 king had to be a descendant from David's line, but when King Ahaziah died, Athaliah seized the  
11 throne and annihilated all but one child in the royal nursery. Athaliah became the de facto queen, but  
12 she was not the de jure ruler of Israel. Surely, God did not expect the nation to submit to Athaliah and  
13 obey her, did He? Jehoiada the priest hid Joash from the wretch, refused to accept her rule or obey her  
14 out of conscience. Likewise, in applying Romans 13, expositors must apply this passage in light of the  
15 corruption and decadence in the District of Columbia. Preachers must help Christians know how to  
16 apply Romans 13 in a country where the government has turned traitor to the Law of God and its own  
17 Constitution. To say that Christians should obey a de facto government that ignores the Law of God  
18 and disobeys its own laws plays into the hands of tyrants.

19 Third, Americans have a duty to speak out, vote out, and kick out corrupt politicians. Passive, weak,  
20 mamsy-pamsy, jejune (dull) citizenship is totally un-American as well as ungodly. Citizens have a duty  
21 to know the law, the issues, and engage the political process with a Biblical perspective even though  
22 their views and actions may oppose the de facto administration. **To question authority is our first  
23 duty as Christians, not submission** (Exodus 20:3)! Because Jehoiada questioned the de facto  
24 authority, he became God's instrument to restore the de jure king to the throne (2 Kings 11).

## 25 **4.2 God ordained the institution of government.**

26 *Hebrews 22:28 For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among the*  
27 *nations.*

28 *Jeremiah 10:7 Who would not fear Thee, O King of the nations? Indeed it is Thy due!*  
29 *For among all the wise men of the nations, And in all their kingdoms, There is none like*  
30 *Thee.*

31 *Proverbs 8:16 By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.*

32 *Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto*  
33 *me in heaven and in earth.*

34 *1 Timothy 6:15 . . . who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord*  
35 *of lords.*

36 *Daniel 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth*  
37 *according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and*  
38 *none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?.*

1           *John 19:11 Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been*  
2           *given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me up to you has the greater*  
3           *sin."*

4 While men may question the actions of a government servant, they should be restrained in assailing the  
5 action of a weak but imperfect God-instituted government. Even David restrained himself from being  
6 an instrument to dethrone an errant but de jure king (1 Samuel 23:1ff). The former is the occupation of  
7 righteous men; the latter is the operation of rebels. The authority of a government ordained by God in  
8 Romans 13 is one instituted by His Word and under the authority of His Word. The government to  
9 which a Christian owes his allegiance is one duly constituted under the authority of the Lord Jesus  
10 Christ. ***It would be wrong to assume that allegiance is due to a government simply because it exists***  
11 ***irrespective of its moral character.*** Nations have a duty to obey God's Word and when they rebel  
12 against God's law-order, the Christian has a moral duty to bind himself to God's Word as his rule of  
13 life and to wisely resist the will of man.

14           *Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God*  
15           *rather than men [unlawful commands of civil authorities].*

16           *Romans 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power [the institution of government],*  
17           *resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves*  
18           *damnation.*

19 In his election day sermon in 1774, Pastor Gad Hitchcock said, "With respect therefore to rulers of evil  
20 dispositions [the British], **nothing is more necessary than that they should believe resistance, in**  
21 **some cases to be lawful.**"<sup>11</sup>

22 It is the duty of nations to acknowledge His sovereignty and submit to the authority of the Lord Jesus  
23 Christ (Hebrews 2:12) and the duty of Christians to resist the will of man in the affairs of government  
24 where possible. We hear much about the Christian's duty to obey the government, but **a discussion on**  
25 **the government's duty to obey the King of Kings is practically non-existent.** Preachers have failed  
26 to extend the application of Scripture to its full jurisdiction which includes applications to the state.

27           *Hebrews 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his*  
28           *wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.*

### 29 **4.3 Government is a religious and theological issue.**

30 Humanists have wielded their machetes to sever church and state—even to the point of remonstrating  
31 against religious speech in the political arena. Secular propagandists have taught Americans that the  
32 Christians should not bring their religion to Capital Hill or let their religion influence their political  
33 decisions. Hogwash! Government is a religious issue because the State deals with matters of law—  
34 laws that reflect human values. Congressional legislation is as religious as Bible preaching. We have  
35 heard it said, "You cannot force your morality upon others." This is nothing but fizz. Every law is a  
36 reflection of somebody's morality. The question is, "Whose morality is going to rule society--the  
37 morality of Sodomites or the morality of family men?"

1 *2 Kings 17:7, 8 For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD*  
2 *their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of*  
3 *Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods [tolerated multiculturalism],And*  
4 *walked in the statutes of the heathen [laws of secular nations], whom the LORD cast*  
5 *out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.*

6 *Hebrews 94:20 Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth*  
7 *mischief by a law?*

8 Government was instituted to serve and worship God. In Romans 13, four names are given to civil  
9 rulers: “authorities”, “deacons,” “rulers” and “servants.” The term “servant” is the Greek work  
10 *diakonos* or deacon. The term “servant” (*leiturgos*) is a term used to refer to temple servants. In using  
11 these terms, God informs us that government was ordained to be the servant of God for the  
12 administration of justice. But, if the government ceases to acknowledge God’s authority over  
13 governments or administer justice, is it still the servant of God?

14 **Not only should Christians obey God’s law, the government should obey God’s laws!** We hear  
15 much about how citizens should obey the government, but we seldom hear that **government has a duty**  
16 **to obey the Lord Jesus Christ.**

17 *Hebrews 72:11 Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him.*

18 *Jeremiah 10:7 Who would not fear Thee, O King of the nations? Indeed it is Thy due!*  
19 *For among all the wise men of the nations, And in all their kingdoms, There is none like*  
20 *Thee.*

21 *We have no government armed in power capable of contending with human passions*  
22 *unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made only for a religious and*  
23 *moral people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other*  
24 *[John Adams]*

25 *The highest glory of the American Revolution was this; it connected, in one indissoluble*  
26 *bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity*  
27 *[John Quincy Adams).]*

28 *Before any man can be considered as a member of Civil Society, he must be considered*  
29 *as a subject of the Governour of the Universe*  
30 *[James Madison Memorial and Remonstrance -1785]*

#### 31 **4.4 All government is limited in its authority.**

32 To believe as many do that government can regulate anything, tax anything, and govern anything is a  
33 wobbly as two legged stool. God did not intend any man to be a vassal to arbitrary, democratic  
34 despotism.

35 James Madison declared in his speech in *Memorial and Remonstrance* in 1785 the following:

1       *“Because [the Christian] Religion **be exempt** from the authority of the Society at large,*  
2       ***still less** can it be subject to that of the Legislative Body. The latter are but the creatures*  
3       *and vicegerents of the former. **Their jurisdiction is both derivative and limited:** it is*  
4       *limited with regard to the co-ordinate departments, more necessarily is it limited with*  
5       *regard to the constituents . . . The Rulers who are **guilty of such an encroachment,***  
6       ***exceed** the commission from which they derive their authority, **and are Tyrants.** The*  
7       *People who submit to it are governed by laws made neither by themselves nor by an*  
8       *authority derived from them, and **are slaves.**”*

9       There is a difference between authority and power. Government has power. People have rights. Might  
10      does not make right. A 350 magnum is like government without authority. In American, the  
11      constitution assigned government with eighteen powers. When it steps outside of those powers, it  
12      abandons its authority. Government was not instituted for philanthropy, but as an agent of justice.  
13      When government seeks to be a minister of mercy [welfare] instead of a minister of justice, it usurps  
14      the role of the church and acts outside its jurisdiction. In so doing, it abandons its God-given purpose.  
15      When a government abandons its God-given purpose, it is no longer the servant of God. When a  
16      government seeks to be king (administration), priest (religion), and prophet (education), it sets itself up  
17      as a god—a god in competition with the living God.

18      When a State vacates its God-given authority it acts unlawfully. When it steps outside of God-given  
19      powers, it abandons its authority. Christians have no duty to obey any magistrate who acts under the  
20      color of law or outside his authority any more than a citizen of Colorado has to obey the laws of New  
21      Hampshire.

22      *Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God*  
23      *rather than men {i.e., theunlawful commands of civil authorities}.*

24      *Daniel 3: 10, 18 Thou, O king, hast made a decree, . . .be it known unto thee, O king,*  
25      *that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*

26      *“The right to defy an unconstitutional statute is basic in our scheme. Even when an*  
27      *ordinance requires a permit to make a speech, to deliver a sermon, to picket, to parade,*  
28      *or to assemble, it need not be honored when it’s invalid on its face.”(Justice Potter*  
29      *Stewart)*

30      *“The inherent right in the people to reform their government, I do not deny; and they*  
31      *have another right, and that is to resist unconstitutional laws without overturning the*  
32      *government”*  
33      *[Daniel Webster]*

34      *“The spirit of resistance to government is so valuable on certain occasions, that I wish*  
35      *it to be always kept alive. It will often be exercised when wrong, but better so than not*  
36      *to be exercised at all. I like a little rebellion now and then”*  
37      *[Thomas Jefferson]*

38      It has been said that America was born in rebellion. But, that is not quite true. Americans claimed  
39      independence only after the King of England refused to honor his treaties with the various states. It  
40      was the king who rebelled, not the colonists! It was the king who overreached his duty to deprive the  
41      colonies of their rights. **Rebellion can only occur against lawful authority.** It is **not** rebellion to resist

1 unlawful authority! It was not rebellion by the Colonies to disobey a king seeking to shackle the  
2 Colonies and to enslave them to the British Crown.

### 3 **4.5 The State has a duty to obey God.**

4 Preaching today is often one sided. Preachers pound into Christians the belief that Christians have a  
5 duty to always obey the government. **Rarely do preachers teach that the State always has a duty to**  
6 **obey the One Who ordained it!** Furthermore, not only should believers obey appropriate laws  
7 (criminal laws), the State should obey its own laws (criminal and civil)!

8 *Because the government breaks the law and denies it, the government is not your friend*  
9 *[Judge Napolitano, Constitutional Chaos, p. ix]*

10 *It is impossible to introduce into society a greater change and a greater evil than this:*  
11 **the conversion of the law into an instrument of plunder**  
12 *[Frederic Bastiat]*

13 *He therefore is the truest friend to the liberty of his country who tries most to promote*  
14 *its virtue, and who, so far as his power and influence extend, will not suffer a man to be*  
15 *chosen into any office of power and trust who is not a wise and virtuous man . . . The*  
16 *sum of all is, if we would most truly enjoy this gift of Heaven, let us become a virtuous*  
17 *people*  
18 *[Samuel Adams]*

19 **One who commands lawfully must be obeyed.** Obedience is due magistrates acting under the  
20 authority of God's law-order, but no one is bound to obey an authority not in subjection to the Law of  
21 Christ.

22 **Total obedience to the government is not only unbiblical, it is idolatry.** Because civil magistrates  
23 often promote injustice, absolute obedience to civil rulers is not only impossible, it is undesirable. Civil  
24 rulers are often the instrument of evil. Consider the following violations of common law in the gospels.

- 25 • The massacre of the children near Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16).
- 26 • The execution of John the Baptist (Matthew 14:10).
- 27 • The slaughter of the Galileans (Luke 13:1).
- 28 • The arrest of Jesus (Matthew 26:50).
- 29 • The slapping of Jesus by an officer (John 18:22).
- 30 • The mocking of Jesus -his crown of thorns, spitting and striking Him on the Head (Matthew  
31 27:28-30).
- 32 • The crucifixion (Matthew 27:35-37).

33 Paul was accused of disobeying the decrees of Caesar (Acts 17:6-8). Consider the following violations  
34 in the Book of Acts by civil magistrates.

- 35 • The imprisonment of the apostles (Acts 4:3; 5:26).
- 36 • Their scourging without an official indictment or trial (Acts 5:40).
- 37 • The beheading of James and arbitrary arrest of Peter (Acts 12:2-3).
- 38 • The scourging of Paul and Silas without a trial (Acts 16:19-24).

- The beating of Paul (Acts 21:32)
- The binding of Paul so that he could be examined by scourging (Acts 22:24)

John Locke stated,

*Any single man must judge for himself whether circumstances warrant obedience or resistance to the commands of the civil magistrate; we are all qualified, entitled, and morally obliged to evaluate the conduct of our rulers. This political judgment, moreover, is not simply or primarily a right, but like self-preservation, a duty to God. As such it is a judgment that men cannot part with according to the God of Nature. It is the first and foremost of our inalienable rights without which we can preserve no other.*

Christians have a duty to obey good government and good laws. But, what is a good government and a good law? Is it good for America to become a safe haven for homosexuals? Humanists think so. Protection of homosexuals is the result of rejecting God's law-source! When government defines what is good instead of submitting to how God defines good, the state perverts goodness and promotes evil. When the government tolerates murder and theft, it sanctions evil. It is rebellious to disobey a good government that obeys God's law-source, but it not rebellious to disobey bad government that disobeys God's law. ***If there is no place for disobedience to government, then government has become a god!*** When Christians no longer have the will to resist evil in government, then the State has become a god. When fear of disobeying government is stronger than one's fear of disobeying God, then the state has become a god.

*Exodus 1:17 But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.*

*Daniel 3:12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods [or his laws], nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*

*Esther 3:8 And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them*

*“Upon these two foundations, the law of nature and the law of revelation, depend all human laws; that is to say, no human laws should be suffered to contradict these. . . . Nay, if any human law should allow or enjoin us to commit it, **we are bound to transgress that human law**, or else we must offend both the natural and the divine,”*  
[William Blackstone.<sup>12</sup>]

At times obedience to God requires obedience to the State; and at times obedience to the State is obedience to God. At other times obedience to God requires disobedience to the State; and, disobedience to the State can be obedience to God. Was not Israel judged for failing to resist King Saul when he broke the covenant with the Gibeonites and executed many (2 Samuel 20)? Was not Rahab rewarded for disobeying her king? Was not Israel expelled from the land because she obeyed her kings (2 Kings 17:1-12)?

1 “Discerning and knowing why one would choose to disobey is by far the most serious  
2 and mysterious part of listening to the voice of God . . . In the end, holy obedience and  
3 holy disobedience appear as one and the same call-and both are held together by  
4 listening to God more than anyone else”

5 [[Karol Jackowski](#)]

6 “One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws, but conversely,  
7 one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws”

8 [Martin Luther King]

9 *Disobedience, the rarest and most courageous of the virtues, is seldom distinguished  
10 from neglect, the laziest and commonest of the vices.”*

11 [*George Bernard Shaw, reluctantly quoted*]

12 In **covenant law**, when one party violated the covenant the innocent party was released from duty to  
13 the covenant. When a king disobeyed the covenant, power returned to the people.

14 *1 Kings 11:11 Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of  
15 thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded  
16 thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.*

#### 17 **4.6 The purpose of government is to serve justice.**



The purpose of the church is grace; i.e., the proclamation of the gospel. The **only purpose** of Government according to Romans is as an “*agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer*” (NIV). According to Peter, government is “*sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well*” (I Peter 2:14). Our founding fathers put it this way in the Declaration: “*To secure these rights (life, liberty, property), governments are instituted among men.*”

26 The most basic function of civil government is to punish injustice  
27 and to provide protection for its citizens. States need to give equal protection to people of all ages—  
28 including the unborn. Furthermore, no person including unborn babies should be deprived of life  
29 without due process of law. It is the duty of the strong to protect the weak, and it is the duty of civil  
30 rulers to protect those who cannot protect themselves. But, when the government sees itself as god and  
31 the decider of what is good, then it condones baby-killing as some kind of therapy for pregnant  
32 women.

33 A true Christian does not need government to rule over Him because he is ruled by the Lord Jesus  
34 Christ. Government is a necessity for the unruly, but it is not a necessity for those who have learned  
35 the principles of self-government.

#### 36 **4.7 Law is the collective organization of the individual right to self-defense.**





People have to assume personal responsibility for the defense of their life and family. Since the individual has a right to protect his life, liberty, and property, then men have the duty to organize and support a common force to protect these rights. Good government, therefore, protects the life, liberty, and property of its citizenry. Good citizens, the district attorney, and judges must unite to enforce common law. A bad government plunders its citizens and protects criminals. Good government is not to be feared by a moral and righteous people. It is a fearful thing, however, when the government condones the murder of the unborn, enslaves citizens by legislation, plunders the property of

private citizens by force and power, and seeks to deprive citizens of the right to self-defense.

*2 Samuel 23:3 The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, **He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.***

*Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.*

*It is dangerous to be right when the government is wrong  
[Plato]*

Collective self-defense is a right of man, but to leave the protection of life, liberty, and property up to the police is the height irresponsibility. While police may be helpful, generally they are nowhere to be found when you need them. Furthermore, it has been ruled that the police have no duty to protect people; that is, they are not liable if you call 911 and they don't show up for two hours. "He teaches man hands to war," said David (Hebrews 18:34); that is, God taught His inspired Hebrewsist king to defend himself and the sheep under his care. The church has no room for passive, effeminate, defenseless pastors with the backbone of jelly fish. Tyrants are killers. To disarm Americans in order to avoid all injury, all killing, as a means of creating their utopian society only succeeds in rewarding evil. The Sixth Commandment demands that a man not only protect life, but to possess the moral fiber and **spiritual vigor to take the life** of a thug that threatens life. Therefore, a Christian must develop a personal philosophy of self-defense: Here is mine:

- It's better to have a gun and not need it, than to need a gun and not have it.
- Never bring a knife to a gunfight!
- The reason I carry a gun is that I can't carry a cop.
- When seconds count, the cops are only minutes away.
- The only thing worse than being in a gunfight is losing one!
- If you find yourself in a fair fight, you have the wrong strategy.
- I don't carry a gun to scare people. I carry a gun because the world is a scary place.
- I don't carry a gun because I'm proud and mean. I carry a gun because there are proud mean people in the world who would not think twice about harming me or my family.
- I don't carry a gun because I hate government. I carry a gun because I understand the limitations of government.
- I don't carry a gun because I'm angry. I carry a gun so I don't have to spend the rest of my life hating myself for not being able to stop a thug from killing someone I loved.
- I don't carry a gun because I want to kill someone. I carry a gun because I want to live to a ripe old age.

- I don't carry a gun to prove that I am a man. I carry a gun because it is my God-given duty to protect my family, friends, and neighbors.
- I don't carry a gun because I hate people. I carry a gun because I am a man that loves God and my neighbor as myself.
- I don't carry a gun because I'm too young to die. I carry a gun because I'm too old to run and to tired to fight a thirty year old scumbag.

#### 4.8 Man's rights do not come from government.

Our Declaration recognizes a truth that we are endowed by our Creator with unalienable rights. Rights do not come from government, but from God. God-given rights cannot lawfully be taken away by a legislative body. A right is the sovereignty to act without the permission of others. The concept of a right carries with it an implicit condition: one may exercise rights as long as he does not violate the rights of another. Within this context, rights are an absolute (9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment).

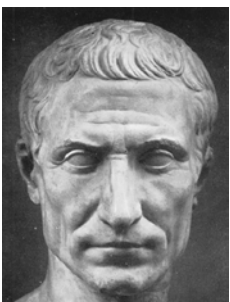
*You have rights antecedent to all earthly governments: rights that cannot be repealed or restrained by human laws; rights derived from the Great Legislator of the universe*  
[John Adams]

Every command in Scripture carries with it a human right. But, in modern society, the state has turned rights into privileges even forcing people to obtain licenses to do what God sanctions: license to travel, to marry, to work, to preach, to carry a weapon, and even licenses to practice law. We do not need a license to do what God commands. A license is nothing more than the state attempting to control people in some kind of money-making scheme. The official definition of license is as follows:

*A license is merely a permission to do what is unlawful at common law, or is made so by some statute or ordinance, including the one authorizing or requiring the license.*  
*The Laundry License Case, 22 Fed. 701, 703 (D. Or. 1885); [33 Or. L. Rev. 3, Fn. 2].*

Did you read that carefully? A license is permission to do what is unlawful! Since when is getting married, working for a living, carrying a weapon an unlawful act? The insistence by the state that men need the government's permission to marry or to work or to practice law or to travel is nothing more than the state's attempt to be a god.

#### 4.9 Romans 13 does not teach that the church should submit to Caesar.



The church should submit fully and totally to Christ—anything else would be idolatry. It is independent of government under its own commission from Christ. Christianity is not subject to the conscience of the legislature. Furthermore, the First Amendment forbids, proscribes, and prevents Congress from passing a single law towards the church including but not limited to the exposure of its financial affairs to the IRS. The church must hold fast to the headship of Christ and reject Satan's entrapment by pagan governments to control the church through contracts, especially the 501 c 3 machination (Hebrews 11:8; Colossians 2:5-14; 3 John 7).

1 *Hebrews 118:9 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes*  
2 *[government promises].*

3 *Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after*  
4 *the tradition of men [man-made statutes], after the rudiments of the world*  
5 *[congressional legislation], and not after Christ.*

6 *3 John 1:7 Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the*  
7 *Gentiles [or their government programs]*

8 *“An unlimited submission is not due to government in a free state”*  
9 *[Colonial Preacher].<sup>13</sup>*

10 In 2 Corinthians 6:14-17, Paul says, “Be ye ***not unequally yoked*** [contracted] together with  
11 *unbelievers [governments].*” This is a prohibition against contracting with the unbelieving state.  
12 Unless out of ignorance or rebellion against God’s Word, why would a church consent to enter the  
13 jurisdiction of the State and submit to the State’s restrictive regulations. Didn’t Paul chastise the  
14 Colossians for “not holding the head” (Colossians 2:19)? Churches that incorporate with the State  
15 compromise the headship of Christ, yoke themselves to pagan authority, and limit the full application  
16 of the gospel to politics; that is, when a church becomes a non-profit 501 c 3 organization it becomes  
17 non-profitable, non-prophet corporation.

18 In America, Congress is restricted from regulating the church—**UNLESS THE CHURCH**  
19 **VOLUNTARILY BECOMES A 501 (C) 3 ORGANIZATION.** The *church* as distinguished from  
20 an *organization* is protected by the First Amendment. **Not only are the beliefs of the church secure,**  
21 **the church has a right to practice those beliefs without interference or license from the State.**  
22 This includes the right to keep its financial records private—even from the IRS! This includes the  
23 right of the church to refuse to become an uncompensated tax collector for the state through its  
24 taxation schemes a.k.a. the Form W-4 program!! Furthermore, the church cannot be taxed or regulated  
25 by the federal government because Congress is barred from doing so. Its ministers cannot lawfully be  
26 taxed or converted to government employees. Besides, all church offerings are voluntary gifts given by  
27 the people; and, since ministers are supported by the gifts of God’s people gifts have never been  
28 taxable. There is no need for a tax-exempt status because Congress cannot pass a law to tax the church  
29 in the first place; that is, the church owes its existence to Heaven, not the State! God creates living  
30 churches and governments create dead entities called “corporations.” Because the government is not  
31 superior to the church, it cannot tax or regulate, define, demand, or command it or its ministers. [But,  
32 the government can regulate what it creates.]

33 *Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power [authority] is*  
34 *given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations*

35 *Amendment I: Congress shall make **no law** respecting an establishment of religion, or*  
36 *prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the*  
37 *press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government*  
38 *for a redress of grievances.*

39 Is there something difficult to understand about these two words: “no law?” The truth is that Congress  
40 never has nor can it make a law requiring churches to apply to be a tax exempt organization!! Even if it  
41 did, those “laws” would be null and void for Biblical and constitutional violations.

1 While Congress cannot pass a law towards free churches, **it can pass laws towards those**  
2 **organizations (501 (c) 3 organizations) which the IRS creates.** By encouraging churches to become  
3 religious organizations subject to IRS authority, the IRS in effect creates its own State religion with  
4 itself as the head of each organization. Congress has never made a law requiring churches to become  
5 501 (c) 3 religious organizations. It is not Congress that has done this to the church, but the Church  
6 that has appointed the IRS as head of the church. **The church became a slave of the IRS without a**  
7 **shot being fired.** Yes, 501 c 3 organizations must obey the government; but, churches have no duty to  
8 do so.

9 **4.10 Romans 13 does not support registering with the State.**



10

11 Rome controlled its citizens through incorporation. It was the will of Rome that all cults, guilds, and  
12 businesses incorporate with the State. In Romans 13, Paul is **not** telling ministers of the gospel to  
13 submit church affairs or their ministries to Caesar. Paul is **not** telling the church to incorporate with  
14 Rome. When a church incorporates with the State, it yokes itself to Caesar. When a church  
15 incorporates, **it fornicates with the IRS and becomes a harlot church.** If life comes from Christ, the  
16 church owes its existence to the Savior. If life comes from the State, then a church owes its existence  
17 to the State. If the organization does not obey Caesar, Caesar may withdraw its charter and the church  
18 will die. The only way a harlot church can survive is to promote total submission to the State. Those  
19 that protest incorporation may find themselves opposed not only by the State, but by the harlot church.  
20 Those churches that incorporate with Caesar turn their ministers into servants of the State rather than  
21 servants of Christ.

22 David Ryser, in the “Question that Changed My Life” tells this insightful story:

1 *A number of years ago, I had the privilege of teaching at a school of ministry. My*  
2 *students were hungry for God, and I was constantly searching for ways to challenge*  
3 *them to fall more in love with Jesus and to become voices for revival in the Church. I*  
4 *came across a quote attributed most often to Rev. Sam Pascoe. It is a short version of*  
5 *the history of Christianity, and it goes like this:*

6 ***"Christianity started in Palestine as a fellowship; it moved to Greece and became a***  
7 ***philosophy; it moved to Italy and became an institution; it moved to Europe and***  
8 ***became a culture; it came to America and became an enterprise."***

9 *Some of the students were only 18 or 19 years old--barely out of diapers--and I wanted*  
10 *them to understand and appreciate the import of the last line, so I clarified it by adding,*  
11 ***"An enterprise. That's a business."*** *After a few moments Martha, the youngest student*  
12 *in the class, raised her hand. I could not imagine what her question might be. I thought*  
13 *the little vignette was self-explanatory, and that I had performed it brilliantly.*  
14 *Nevertheless, I acknowledged Martha's raised hand, "Yes, Martha." She asked such a*  
15 *simple question, "A business? But isn't it supposed to be a body?" I could not envision*  
16 *where this line of questioning was going, and the only response I could think of was,*  
17 ***"Yes." She continued, "But when a body becomes a business, isn't that a prostitute?"***

18 What an insight, when the church becomes a business, it is nothing more than a prostitute. Hard words  
19 for the modern church to swallow!!

#### 20 **4.11 When the government becomes a god.**

21 Most idolaters in the world are not in India or Africa, but in America. Statism is a religion and most  
22 Americans fear the government more than they fear offending their Creator. Exodus 20:3 is God's law  
23 that forbids idolatry. Statism is the preferred idol of choice; that is, when the state is seen as the source  
24 of all law and authority, these citizens are involved in idolatry. The belief that the state is ultimate  
25 solution to all of man's problems is idolatry. When Americans look to the government to solve their  
26 personal problems, they commit idolatry. Americans are involved in idolatry when they seek to  
27 supplant God's law order with man's law order. To tolerate an alien, humanistic law order is an act of  
28 idolatry. The trend to make man his own god and his own law leads to anarchy and totalitarianism—an  
29 act of idolatry.

30 **Christians should have an unlimited commitment to obey God's perfect Word, and a cautious**  
31 **commitment to obey an imperfect government.** Anytime people believe that they should render  
32 unlimited obedience to the State, then government is a god in that person's faith. When Christians no  
33 longer have the vigor to resist the groping power of overreaching governments, then government has  
34 become a god.

35 *Jeremiah 7:23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be*  
36 *your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have*  
37 *commanded you, that it may be well unto you.*

38 *Deuteronomy 6:24 And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the*  
39 *LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.*

1 *Deuteronomy 8:11 **Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his***  
2 ***commandments,** and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:*

3 *Deuteronomy 7:16 And thou shalt consume all the people which the LORD thy God*  
4 *shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them: **neither shalt thou serve their***  
5 ***gods; for that will be a snare unto thee [their laws and values shall be snare unto***  
6 ***thee].***

#### 7 **4.12 Romans 13 and a constitutional republic.**

8 When applying Romans 13 or its parallel passage in 1 Peter 2:13, preachers must carefully consider the  
9 nature of our constitutional republic.

10 Preachers presumptuously demand Christians obey the government without ever considering our  
11 unique form of government. America does not have a monarchy. Americans are not subjects of the  
12 crown—at least not suppose to be. The president is not a king. Americans are not serfs. The White  
13 House has no authority over the average American citizen. America was designed to be a republic with  
14 the people as the master and the government as a servant.

15 When applying Romans 13 or its parallel passage in 1 Peter 2:13, preachers must carefully consider the  
16 nature of our constitutional republic. The U.S. Constitution is a Republic under God, rooted in Biblical  
17 law, with the promise of liberty and justice for all. When the Bible tells servants to obey their master,  
18 we must properly apply the text. ***In America, the people are the Master, and the government is the***  
19 ***Servant.*** Americans are not subjects of the U.S. Inc. The government is subject to WE THE PEOPLE.  
20 The Constitution orders the government to be subject to the will of the People. The chief problem  
21 facing America is the ignorance of pastors regarding the nature of our Constitutional republic and the  
22 limitations placed on government by the Constitution. Most Americans, politicians, and judges ignore  
23 the Constitution or act as if it was a suspended document. Unless aggressively challenged, statutory  
24 law has precedence over Constitutional law.

25 *“Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant [government] is not greater than*  
26 *his master [WE THE PEOPLE]’*  
27 *[John15:20]*

28 *“Servants [You civil rulers], obey in all things your masters [WE THE PEOPLE]*  
29 *according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart,*  
30 *fearing God. And whatever you do [civil rulers], do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to*  
31 *men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you*  
32 *serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for the wrong which he has*  
33 *done, and there is no partiality.”*  
34 *[Colossians 3:22-25, Bible, NKJV]*

35 *Julliard v. Greenman, 110 U.S. 421 (1884): “There is no such thing as a power of*  
36 *inherent sovereignty in the government of the United States...In this country sovereignty*  
37 *resides in the people, and Congress can exercise no power which they have not, by their*  
38 *Constitution entrusted to it. All else is withheld.”*

1 *Hale v. Henkel*, 240 U.S. 43 (1906): “His [the individual’s] rights are such as existed  
2 by the law of the land long antecedent to the organization of the State, and can only be  
3 taken from him by due process of law, and in accordance with the Constitution. Among  
4 his rights are a refusal to incriminate himself, and the immunity of himself and his  
5 property from arrest or seizure except under a warrant of the law. He owes nothing to  
6 the public so long as he does not trespass upon their rights.”

7 *Perry v. U.S.*, 294 U.S. 330 (1935): “In the United States, sovereignty resides in the  
8 people...the Congress cannot invoke sovereign power of the People to override their  
9 will as thus declared.”

10 *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356 (1886): “Sovereignty itself is, of course, not subject  
11 to law, for it is the author and source of law...While sovereign powers are delegated  
12 to...the government, sovereignty itself remains with the people.”

13 Those who framed the Constitution understood principles long forgotten by most citizens. They  
14 understood that the purpose of government was to protect life, liberty, and property and that when a  
15 government abandons this fundamental principle all liberty is at risk. The greatest threat to our  
16 freedoms are not enemies without, but domestic enemies within the United States Government!

17 America does not have a monarchy and the president is not Caesar. In America the People are  
18 considered kings and the government is considered a servant of the People.

19 “People of a State are entitled to all rights which formerly belonged to the King by his  
20 prerogative.”  
21 [*Lansing v. Smith* (1829), 4 Wend. 9, 20]

22 “Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant [government] is not greater than  
23 his master [WE THE PEOPLE]’ ”  
24 [*John 15:20*]

25 “Servants [You civil rulers], obey in all things your masters [WE THE PEOPLE]  
26 according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart,  
27 fearing God. And whatever you do [civil rulers], do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to  
28 men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you  
29 serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for the wrong which he has  
30 done, and there is no partiality.”  
31 [*Colossians 3:22-25*, Bible, NKJV]

32 “There is no such thing as a power of inherent sovereignty in the government of the  
33 United States...In this country sovereignty resides in the people, and Congress can  
34 exercise no power which they have not, by their Constitution entrusted to it. All else is  
35 withheld.”  
36 [*Julliard v. Greenman*, 110 U.S. 421 (1884)]

1       *“His [the individual’s] rights are such as existed by the law of the land long antecedent*  
2       *to the organization of the State, and can only be taken from him by due process of law,*  
3       *and in accordance with the Constitution. Among his rights are a refusal to incriminate*  
4       *himself, and the immunity of himself and his property from arrest or seizure except*  
5       *under a warrant of the law. He owes nothing to the public so long as he does not*  
6       *trespass upon their rights.”*  
7       *[Hale v. Henkel, 240 U.S. 43 (1906):]*

8       *“In the United States, sovereignty resides in the people...the Congress cannot invoke*  
9       *sovereign power of the People to override their will as thus declared.”*  
10      *[Perry v. U.S., 294 U.S. 330 (1935)]*

11      *“Sovereignty itself is, of course, not subject to law, for it is the author and source of*  
12      *law...While sovereign powers are delegated to...the government, sovereignty itself*  
13      *remains with the people.”*  
14      *[Yick Wo v. Hopkins, 118 U.S. 356 (1886)]*

#### 15    **4.13 Understanding jurisdiction**

16    **When applying Romans 13, pastors must understand the legal concept of jurisdictions.** To simply  
17    say that Christians must obey the government is an over generalization that has produce more than a  
18    little evil. There are laws for different entities, corporations, and classes of people—laws that do not  
19    apply to ordinary citizens. Laws for the *public sector* do not apply to people in the *private sector*.  
20    Corporate law does not apply to private individuals. Government regulations for corporations do not  
21    apply to the body of Christ. Certain congressional laws may bind a government employee in his  
22    service while the private employee has no such duty to the State. A private sector employee is not  
23    being rebellious when he does not obey public sector laws anymore than a wife is not being rebellious  
24    for refusing to obey another than her husband.

25    Christians must realize that the Constitution is an imperfect document—not only imperfect but  
26    fundamentally flawed. The Founders made a colossal error when they did not acknowledge the Lord  
27    Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords nor require the federal government to honor its limited  
28    duties before the living God. Failing to establish their authority upon the solid rock of God’s Word  
29    opened the door for atheists and humanists to rule this country. Nevertheless, what is is what is and we  
30    must use the constitution to bind down the government.

#### 31    **4.14 The difference between moral and civil law**

32    **Pastors should distinguish between moral law and civil law** when discussing Romans 13. Criminal  
33    codes are a reflection of God’s moral law as iterated in the Ten Commandments. Civil law is a  
34    reflection of the will of the legislature regarding commerce. Obeying criminal law is mandatory, while  
35    obeying civil law is voluntary. All men are obligated to obey criminal law prohibitions. Only certain  
36    people are obligated to obey civil law and its obligations and that by consent. Criminal law is written  
37    in the conscience; Civil law is written in contracts. Criminal law is public law; civil law is the law of  
38    private agreements. Governments do not need the consent of the governed to prosecute criminals; but  
39    governments do need the consent of the governed to move against civil infractions. In as far as  
40    government legislates against evil as defined in the Bible, government should be fully supported.



1 Romans 13 is discussing a Christian's obligation to submit to the prohibitions in criminal law; it is not  
2 placing an obligation on Christians to submit to all civil law. Such an enlarged interpretation would be  
3 ridiculous.

#### 4 **4.15 The difference between the rule of law and rule by law.**

5 **Pastors must make a distinction between the *rule of law* and *rule by law*.** Under the *rule of law* the  
6 government must obey its own laws. Under *rule by law* the government uses legislation to manipulate  
7 and control the people. Under the rule of law the government is responsible to obey its own laws. The  
8 *rule of law* limits discretionary power of the government, including the power to changes the laws.  
9 Tyrannical governments use *rule by law* to compel performance and to gain dominion over the people.

#### 10 **4.16 The difference between jurisprudence and lexprudence.**



**Pastors need to understand the difference between jurisprudence and  
lexprudence; that is, between *juris* and *lex*.** The term *juris* refers to that which is  
good, productive, nurturing, healthful, and peaceful. Jurisprudence is the science of  
law that produces light and health in a jural society. The term *lex* is the Latin name  
for law. It refers to law as tool of the State to enforce man-made mandates by  
power and compulsion. Lex is a precept used by governments to validate its use of  
armies to control people. Good governments seek jurisprudence; tyrants use

18 lexprudence to usurp authority over people. (Jurisdictionary).

#### 19 **4.17 Romans 13 in the light of the whole of Scripture**

20 **In teaching Romans 13, pastors must teach it in the light of the whole of Scripture which teaches  
21 Christians a duty to resist tyranny and unjust laws.** Every command in Scripture rebels against  
22 world—"love not the world" (I John 2:15). A good citizen should get involved in the political process  
23 and refuses to acquiesce to unjust laws. We owe our liberties to men of a type that today we hate and  
24 fear -- unruly men, disturbers of the peace, men who resent and denounce what Whitman called 'the  
25 insolence of elected persons' -- in a word, free men. Gerald White Johnson during the 1950's stated the  
26 following: "*Every American of the past who is worth remembering by the present was once  
27 considered a subversive character.*" Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Lee, Wilson and others were  
28 controversial figures; all were enemies of the existing order; all were denounced as unsound men  
29 engaged in un-American activities.

30 *Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil  
31 way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.*

32 *"Resisting tyranny is service to God"*  
33 *[Benjamin Franklin]*

34 *But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object,  
35 evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their  
36 duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security  
37 (Declaration of Independence).*

1 *Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Every actual state is corrupt. Good men must not obey*  
2 *laws too well."*

3 *Gerald Johnson stated, "We are reluctant to admit that we owe our liberties to men of a*  
4 *type that today we hate and fear -- unruly men, disturbers of the peace, men who resent*  
5 *and denounce what Whitman called 'the insolence of elected persons' -- in a word, free*  
6 *men."*

7 *Henry David Thoreau believed that, "Under a government which imprisons unjustly,*  
8 *the true place for a just man is also a prison."*

9 When understood in its own times, the American Revolution was first and foremost a religious event.  
10 This is especially true in New England, where the first shot was fired. By 1775 the ranks of Harvard-  
11 and Yale-educated clergymen swelled to over 600 clergymen, distributed throughout every town and  
12 village in New England. Ministers surveyed the events swirling around them; by 1775 liberals and  
13 evangelicals, Congregationalists and Presbyterians, men and women—all saw in British actions as  
14 grounds for armed resistance.

15 In fact, not only was it right for colonists to resist British "tyranny," it would actually be sinful not to  
16 take up muskets in order to fight. Can you imagine any preacher today that loves his country so much  
17 that he actually encourages his flock to obey God and resist the tyranny of this government?

#### 18 **4.18 The Government as the threat to freedom**

19 **We must recognize that the greatest threat to human freedom is not the neighbor next door but**  
20 **the government turned traitor against the Law of God and its own constitution.** Sin is not only at  
21 work in the human heart, it is at work in human institutions. Just as believers must resist personal sin,  
22 they must recognize sin growing in men with smiles and badges and blue suits who work in D.C., the  
23 district of criminals.

24 *Hebrews 2:2, 3 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel*  
25 *together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands*  
26 *asunder, and cast away their cords from us.*

27 John Locke stated,

28 *... whenever the Legislators endeavour to take away, and destroy the Property of the*  
29 *People, or to reduce them to Slavery under Arbitrary Power, they put themselves into a*  
30 *state of War with the People, who are thereupon absolved from any farther Obedience*  
31 *... [Power then] devolves to the People, who have a Right to resume their original*  
32 *Liberty, and, by the Establishment of a new Legislative (such as they shall think fit)*  
33 *provide for their own Safety and Security, which is the end for which they are in*  
34 *Society.*

#### 1 **4.19 We don't have to tolerate evil in government.**

2 We are not against government, but we are against wickedness in government. Americans can tolerate  
3 weak governments and unfair laws, but who can tolerate the state's rebellion against God's laws?  
4 Americans have the right to redress their grievances per the First Amendment to the government and if  
5 necessary take up arms to take back the government (See the Declaration).

6 *Deuteronomy 7:16 And thou shalt consume all the people which the LORD thy God*  
7 *shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them: neither shalt thou serve their*  
8 *gods; for that will be a snare unto thee.*

9 *Hebrews 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*

#### 10 **4.20 The government is responsible to the law of God.**

11 **God's law was meant to be the guide for the United States government.** The Ten Commandments  
12 are not only a personal moral code that applies to all sinners, the code applies to all men and to all their  
13 institutions, corporations, and forms of government. *Failure to extend the law to its full jurisdiction*  
14 *has been productive of more than a little evil* (John Rushdoony).

15 Romans 13 is built on the presumption that the government Christians are asked to subject themselves  
16 is a government that is serving the will of God. When a State abandons its commitment to the Law of  
17 God, Christians have a limited duty to obey that government for conscience sake. In modern society,  
18 the courts award maximum sheep-like compliance and punish those who respectfully but boldly assert  
19 their God-given rights; that is, anything but total compliance will be treated with contempt.

20 Not only do individuals have an obligation to obey God, governments have a duty to obey God. **Not**  
21 **only can individuals sin against God, governments can sin against God.**

22 **The government must not steal.** When God said, "*Thou shall not steal,*" he was not speaking only to  
23 individual people, but to the institutions men create. **If the citizen has no moral right to steal, neither**  
24 **does the State! And, taxation under the color of law is still theft.**

25 *A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.*  
26 *[George Bernard Shaw]*

27 *The withholding tax makes it possible for the government to silently steal the wealth*  
28 *from its citizens with little or no outrage about the loss. And even in the case where the*  
29 *citizen receives a refund of all the taxes he has paid in, the withholding tax still serves*  
30 *two evil purposes. First, getting a refund of all the taxes one pays in amounts to an*  
31 *interest-free loan to the government. The government gets money to continue its*  
32 *spending orgy, and the citizen loses the ability to receive a return on money that could*  
33 *be invested. And second, getting a tax refund fosters the notion that the government is*  
34 *benevolent. Never mind that the money is yours. If the government sends you a check in*  
35 *the mail then the government can't be all that bad*  
36 *[“Curse of the Income Tax.” Laurence M. Vance is a freelance writer and an adjunct*  
37 *instructor in accounting and economics at Pensacola Junior College in Pensacola, FL.]*

## 4.21 God's standard for civil rulers.

*The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.”*  
*[2 Samuel 23:3]*

America is sinking in quicksand because it has forsaken the Word of God and rejected **His standards for civil rulers.** Think of the lack of moral character in America's leaders. We have congressmen who



are gays, homosexuals, adulterers, thieves, liars, and rebels against God's Law-word. Even as I write this, a madam who runs a call service announced she is running for governor of New York (March 2010). Consequently, this country is overrun with uncircumcised, pagan minds (Isaiah 52:1). Adversaries pound Christians saying please don't force your religion down our throats while these humanists are forcing their pagan lawlessness and immorality down the throats of every American. Every law represents somebody's religion or lack thereof. **The question is what kind of faith do we want a leader to possess—the faith of a Mao Tse Tung or the faith of a George**

**Washington?**

The qualifications for civil rulers are listed in Deuteronomy 17:12-20 as follows:

- God's leaders must be a believer.
- God's leader must trust God.
- God's leader must be a moral person.
- God's leader must know God's laws.
- God's leader must fear the Lord.
- God's leader must be humble.
- God's leader must be a man of integrity.

For this reason, John Jay said, "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers" (October 12, 1816)

## 4.22 Romans 13 and taxation

Taxation is a power of government supported by Scripture. But, paying taxes is subject to the laws that govern it. To understand taxation, one must consult the tax laws of this nation—laws found in the Federal Register or as codified in Title 26.

*Romans 13:6 For this cause pay ye **tribute** also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.*

We believe Christians should pay taxes, but what taxes should they pay? Whatever a CPA says? Each should study the law to determine what legislation applies to their business. Christians should pay

1 taxes if they are involved in a taxable activity. It is not a crime to reduce one's tax liabilities or to avoid  
2 taxes alto gether. To our knowledge congress has never passed a law taxing the income of the average  
3 working American and never can because it is constrained by the Constitution. The present tax system  
4 is voluntarily howbeit through coercion, duress, and intimidation. This is not to say that taxes are  
5 voluntary for those who have a bona fide tax liability. Taxes are mandatory for those to whom they  
6 apply!

7 *"There is nothing sinister in arranging one's affairs as to keep taxes as low as possible-*  
8 *for nobody owes any public duty to pay more than the law demands"*  
9 *[Judge Learned Hand]*

10 We error when we think that Congress can tax anything it wants. Congress' power to tax is very  
11 limited. The Constitution authorizes only two types of taxes, direct and indirect; and, these are  
12 governed by the rule of apportionment and the rule of uniformity. To understand the taxing laws of this  
13 country one should consult the Statute at Large and Title 26.

14 *"But very different considerations apply to the internal commerce or domestic trade of*  
15 *the States. Over this commerce and trade Congress has no power of regulation nor*  
16 *any direct control. This power belongs exclusively to the States. No interference by*  
17 *Congress with the business of citizens transacted within a State is warranted by the*  
18 *Constitution, except such as is strictly incidental to the exercise of powers clearly*  
19 *granted to the legislature. The power to authorize a business within a State is plainly*  
20 *repugnant to the exclusive power of the State over the same subject. ... Congress cannot*  
21 *authorize a trade or business within a State in order to tax it," Id., at 470-71. )*  
22 *[License Tax Cases, 72 U.S. (5 Wall.) 462 (1866).]*

23 Taxes are a mark of sovereignty. For that reason, governments do not tax other governments. Because  
24 the church is under Christ, the State cannot tax the church. Neither the state nor church may claim  
25 sovereignty over the other. Only God is sovereign, and He is sovereign over both church and state.  
26 When the government devises a system to receive its taxes before God receives His tithe from the  
27 people, **the government is saying that it is more important than God.** When the State demands  
28 more than ten percent of a person's income, they are declaring themselves to be **more deserving than**  
29 **God.** When the state demands more that what the law requires, it is involved in fraud through  
30 deception.

31 ***The withholding tax makes it possible for the government to silently steal the wealth***  
32 *from its citizens with little or no outrage about the loss. And even in the case where the*  
33 *citizen receives a refund of all the taxes he has paid in, **the withholding tax still serves***  
34 ***two evil purposes.** First, getting a refund of all the taxes one pays in amounts to an*  
35 *interest-free loan to the government. The government gets money to continue its*  
36 *spending orgy, and the citizen loses the ability to receive a return on money that could*  
37 *be invested. And second, getting a tax refund fosters the notion that the government is*  
38 *benevolent. Never mind that the money is yours. If the government sends you a check in*  
39 *the mail then the government can't be all that bad. ("Curse of the Income Tax."*  
40 *Laurence M. Vance is a freelance writer and an adjunct instructor in accounting and*  
41 *economics at Pensacola Junior College in Pensacola, Fl.)*



When listening to some pastors, one might get the impression that to question the tax law or to protest a tax is high treason. Most pastors believe you are not a good citizen if you question authority and don't pay your fair share. After all the Scripture says, "Give unto Caesar . . ." All that he wants? I don't think so!! At the same time these preachers are begging congregations to give more. Furthermore, they have hired a CPA to figure out ways to lower their own tax burden. Is not this hypocrisy? It is not a crime to protest any tax in this country (First Amendment). Our country was formed in protest of taxes unlawfully imposed by King George. Ever hear of Boston's largest tea party? The Civil War was

fought trying to repel the lusty north from taxing southern cotton farmers into poverty.

It is a privilege to pay taxes to support a godly government, but it is a grievous and burdensome to pay taxes to a government that violates the law and defrauds its own people. One is paid with joy for conscience sake, the later is paid with sorrow out of fear.

In conclusion, it is the general duty of Christians to obey their rulers. However, the unbalanced teaching that unconditional obedience is the will of God at all times for all believers in all political systems fails to take into account the limited nature of obedience to civil rulers.

#### **4.23 Romans 13 and American Law**

Romans 13 has been misapplied by modern day preachers to teach unlimited submission to government without balancing the passage with the whole of Scripture. By listening to modern day pastors on the radio, you might get the false impression that the president is some kind of king and that Americans are vassals duty bound to unquestionably obey every statute passed by a congress drunk with power. Furthermore, preachers use this passage to cajole Christians into paying taxes without understanding anything about the American tax system or about America's unique constitutional republic. To demand unlimited obedience to civil authority ignores much of American history and jurisprudence. Americans are not Roman citizens under the dictatorship of a Julius Caesar. American law is unique in the history of governmental experiments and, therefore, Romans 13 must be carefully applied against the backdrop of our constitutional government.

*MR. JUSTICE MARSHALL delivered the opinion of the Court in part:*

*The question, whether an act repugnant to the Constitution can become the law of the land, is a question deeply interesting to the United States; but, happily, not of an intricacy proportioned to its interest. It seems only necessary to recognize certain principles, supposed to have been long and well established, to decide it . . .*

*. . . the theory of every such government must be, that an act of the legislature, repugnant to the constitution, is void. This theory is essentially attached to a written constitution, and is, consequently, to be considered by this court as one of the fundamental principles of our society. . . .*

*[Marbury v. Madison, 5 U.S. (1 Cranch) 137; 2 L. Ed. 60 (1803)]*

## 4.24 Political Factors Influencing the Application of Romans 13.

In American, the first duty of the citizen is not obedience, but to “Question all authority.”<sup>14</sup> In the seventies, there was a bumper sticker that stated “Question Authority.” It reflected the truth that every generation must revisit the foundation of authority in society. Not all authority is legitimate.

America does not have a king. The President is not a monarch. The People are not subjects of the government. Elected officials are nothing more than public servants.

*“Under our system the people, who are there {in England} are called subjects are here the sovereign . . . Their rights, whether collective or individual, are not bound to give way to a sentiment of loyalty to the person of a monarch”*  
[United States v. Lee, 106 U.S. {Supreme Court} 196, at 208]

*“For in a Republic, who is ‘the country?’ Is it the Government, which is for the moment in the saddle? Why, the Government is merely a servant - merely a temporary servant; it cannot be its prerogative to determine what is right and what is wrong and decide who is a patriot and who isn't. Its function is to obey orders, not originate them.”*  
[Mark Twain]

*DERSHOWITZ: “Well, the Supreme Court of the United States just last year reminded the president that he is not commander in chief of the United States. He's commander in chief of the armed forces. That the United States civilian citizens are not under his control as commander in chief”.*  
[Aired December 19, 2005 - 19:00 ET Wolf Blitzer (Journalist) and Alan Dershowitz (Harvard Law Professor)]  
<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0512/19/sitroom.03.html>

*“If you ask an American, who is his master? He will tell you he has none, nor any governor but Jesus Christ.”*  
[“The Myth of Separation” by David Barton]

*“When the {American} Revolution took place, the people of each State became themselves sovereign”*  
[Pollard v. Hagan, 3 H. 212]

The **polity, or society**, is created by the **social contract**, in which individuals agree to join together for mutual benefit and defense, and to regulate their behavior to avoid forms of tyranny, which are destructive to the rights of man. Our “social contract” is framed in the U.S. Constitution—a constitution that places no duty on the citizen to support the government, and a constitution that severely restricts the activities of government. It is a trust. The grantors were the founding fathers; the beneficiaries are the American people; and the trustees are states and their elected officials in Congress.

In America, the courts have ruled that **the people are sovereign** (legally in the political sense) and public officials are servants of the people. In our country THE PEOPLE are kings. **There is no inherent sovereignty in our government.** See *Lansing v. Smith*, 1929 4 Wend. 9, 20; *Hancock v. Terry Elkhorn Mining Co., Inc.*, Ky., 503 S.W. 2d 710. [Spiritually, however, only God is sovereign-Hebrews 103:19]

1       *"The people of this State, as the successors of its former sovereign, are entitled to all*  
2       *the rights which formerly belonged to the King by his prerogative. Through the medium*  
3       *of their Legislature they may exercise all the powers which previous to the Revolution*  
4       *could have been exercised either by the King alone, or by him in conjunction with his*  
5       *Parliament; subject only to those restrictions which have been imposed by the*  
6       *Constitution of this State or of the U.S."*  
7       *[Lansing v. Smith, 21 D. 89., 4 Wendel 9 (1829) (New York)]*

#### 8       **4.25 Legal factors that influence the application of Romans 13**

9       A sovereign is only answerable to God and conscience. In America, government officials are  
10      answerable to WE THE PEOPLE.

11      **We are a nation of written laws.** If a "law" is not written, it is not law! The only exception to this is  
12      common law. Public policy is not law. Political correctness is not law. A statute that violates one of the  
13      Ten Commandments is not law. The highest law in America is the Constitution. The Constitution is  
14      "supreme law of the land." Any law passed by Congress or a State legislature that is contrary to the  
15      Constitution is null and void. Only the conscience and the Law of God is higher than the Constitution.

16      *Article VI, Clause 2: This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall*  
17      *be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under*  
18      *the Authority of the United States, **shall be the supreme Law of the Land;** and the*  
19      *Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of*  
20      *any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.*

21      *Thus, the particular phraseology of the Constitution of the United States confirms and*  
22      *strengthens the principle, supposed to be essential to all written constitutions, **that a***  
23      ***law repugnant to the Constitution is void;** and **that courts, as well as other***  
24      ***departments, are bound by that instrument***  
25      *[Marbury v. Madison.]*

26      *"It is never to be forgotten that in the construction of the language of the Constitution,*  
27      *we are to place ourselves as nearly as possible in the condition of the men who framed*  
28      *that instrument."*  
29      *[Ex Parte Bain. 12 U.S. 1 7 S. Ct. 781.]*

30      **The federal government is limited and restricted by the Constitution.** It cannot act where there is  
31      no delegated power to do so—unless, of course, the people are ignorant of their Constitutional rights.  
32      This is not to say that the government can not or does not act outside its constitutional authority. It  
33      does it all the time. But, that does not make it right. It just makes it powerful.

34      *The convention of a number of the States having at the time of their adopting the*  
35      *Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent **misconstruction** or **abuse** of its*  
36      *powers, **that further declaratory and restrictive clauses** should be added: And as*  
37      *extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best insure the*  
38      *beneficent ends of its institution*  
39      *[Preamble to the Bill of Rights]*



1 Americans have rights that precede the Constitution. Our rights are not grants from government. They  
2 are gifts from God. And when you understand this you will understand and respect the driving force  
3 behind the American legacy of limited government. These rights are “unalienable” and can not taken  
4 away by a legislative act.

5 *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are*  
6 *endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life,*  
7 *Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”*

8 **An unconstitutional statute is not a law, no matter how vigorously it may be enforced. Enforcement**  
9 **does not make what is enforced the law. What is enforced is a regime.**

10 *“When human laws contradict or discountenance the means, which are necessary to*  
11 *preserve the essential rights of any society, they defeat the proper end of all laws, and*  
12 *so become null and void.”*  
13 *[Alexander Hamilton, 23 Feb. 1775]*

14 *“No legislative act contrary to the Constitution can be valid. To deny this would be to*  
15 *affirm that the deputy (agent) is greater than his principal; that the servant is above the*  
16 *master; that the representatives of the people are superior to the people; that men,*  
17 *acting by virtue of powers may do not only what their powers do not authorize, but what*  
18 *they forbid…[text omitted] It is not otherwise to be supposed that the Constitution*  
19 *could intend to enable the representatives of the people to substitute their will to that of*  
20 *their constituents. It is far more rational to suppose, that the courts were designed to be*  
21 *an intermediate body between the people and the legislature, in order, among other*  
22 *things, to keep the latter within the limits assigned to their authority. The interpretation*  
23 *of the laws is the proper and peculiar province of the courts. A Constitution is, in fact,*  
24 *and must be regarded by judges, as fundamental law. If there should happen to be an*  
25 *irreconcilable variance between the two, the Constitution is to be preferred to the*  
26 *statute.”*  
27 *[Alexander Hamilton, Federalist Paper # 78]*

28 **The federal government is a government of the States, for the States, and by the States.** The  
29 government does not have rights! It has powers. Eighteen powers were granted to the federal  
30 government by the States, Article I. These powers do not include the power to make laws that govern  
31 the people in the States. The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment recognize three distinct powers. There is a wall  
32 between the federal government the states and the People.

33 ***Amendment IX***

34 *The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or*  
35 *disparage others retained by the people.*

36 ***Amendment X***

37 *The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it*  
38 *to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.*

1 Congress cannot pass laws that restrict the people, take away their rights, or regulate their personal  
2 life—unless of course, the people fail to restrain its government by binding it down by the chains of  
3 the Constitution.

4 Congress does *not* have unrestricted, exclusive legislative jurisdiction over any of the 50 sovereign  
5 States. It is bound by the chains of the Constitution. The States created the federal government, not the  
6 other way around. Congress can **only** pass laws that regulate (make regular) the federal government,  
7 federal employees, and its territories. This is called “the federal zone.” The federal zone, or federal  
8 “United States\*\*” , is the area of land over which the Congress exercises an unrestricted, exclusive  
9 legislative jurisdiction. The Federal Zone is Washington D.C., government bureaucracy, Guam, the  
10 Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico respectively. The Bill of Rights do not apply in the Federal Zone.  
11 Failure to understand Congress’ limited authority over the People and its unlimited authority to  
12 regulate government has been the product of more than a little evil.

13 *U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Clause 17: To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases*  
14 *whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of*  
15 *particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government*  
16 *of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the*  
17 *Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of*  
18 *Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;*

19 In 1818, the Supreme Court stated that:

20 *"The exclusive jurisdiction which the United States have in forts and dock-yards ceded*  
21 *to them, is derived from the express assent of the States by whom the cessions are made.*  
22 *It could be derived in no other manner; because without it, the authority of the State*  
23 *would be supreme and exclusive therein," 3 Wheat., at 350, 351.*  
24 *[U.S. v. Bevans, [16 U.S. 336](#) (1818), reaff. 19 U.S.C.A., section 1401(h).]*

25 **There is a hierarchy of law:** The Word of God, the Constitution, the Statutes at Large, U.S. Titles,  
26 U.S. Supreme Court Decisions, Lower Court decisions. Government publications are not law and  
27 cannot be relied upon in court to sustain a position! Only Congress can make law and the State  
28 legislatures respectively to their jurisdiction.

29 *"IRS Publications, issued by the National Office, explain the law in plain language for*  
30 *taxpayers and their advisors... While a good source of general information,*  
31 *publications should not be cited to sustain a position."*  
32 *[IRM, 4.10.7.2.8 (05-14-1999)]*

33 **America was designed to be a republic, not a *democracy* [rule by majority vote] nor a *dulocracy***  
34 **[usurpation of authority by a servant].**

35 *"Republicanism: The republican is the only form of government which is not eternally*  
36 *at open or secret war with the rights of mankind. "*  
37 *[Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), U.S. president. Letter, 11 March 1790.]*

38 In America, there are many jurisdictions including common law, state law, federal law, admiralty law,  
39 commercial law, law of equity, county law, statutory law and the like.

1 *IRS publications are not law! "IRS Publications, issued by the National Office, explain*  
2 *the law in plain language for taxpayers and their advisors... While a good source of*  
3 *general information, publications should not be cited to sustain a position."*  
4 *[IRM, 4.10.7.2.8 (05-14-1999)]*

5 **In America, laws generally apply to those who reside within a designated jurisdiction or for those**  
6 **who enter a jurisdiction via a voluntary contract.**

7 *The laws of every other State are foreign with respect to the one State you now inhabit.*  
8 *Thus, if you live in California, the laws of Maine, Florida, and Oregon are foreign to*  
9 *your home State's own laws.*

10 *Once you understand this relative distinction, you only need to take one more leap, and*  
11 *you will become a budding expert in federal law. Here it is: the laws of the District of*  
12 *Columbia are also foreign with respect to the local, domestic laws of California, Maine,*  
13 *Florida, Oregon, and every other State in the Union.*  
14 *[ Paul Andrew Mitchell, B.A., M.S.Counselor at Law, Private Attorney General]*

15 **In America, government is supported by two types of taxes, direct taxes and indirect taxes.** These  
16 taxes are governed by the **rule of apportionment** and the **rule of uniformity**.

17 *Direct taxes must be "apportioned among the several States which may be included*  
18 *within this Union".*  
19 *[See Article I, Section 2, Clause 3 and Article I, Section 9, Clause 4.]*

20 *"All duties, imposts and excises [indirect taxes], shall be uniform throughout the United*  
21 *States".*  
22 *[See Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.]*

23 **In America, we practice the rule of law, not the rule of men;** i.e., government officials are not exempt  
24 from law. Rulers in a constitutional republic must obey the written law and acknowledge its  
25 restrictions and limitations on government.

26 *Unlike political parties, the Communist Party acknowledges no constitutional or*  
27 *statutory limitations upon its conduct or upon that of its members. The Communist*  
28 *Party is relatively small numerically, and gives scant indication of capacity ever to*  
29 *attain its ends by lawful political means. The peril inherent in its operation arises not*  
30 *from its numbers, but from its failure to acknowledge any limitation as to the nature of*  
31 *its activities, and its dedication to the proposition that the present constitutional*  
32 *Government of the United States ultimately must be brought to ruin by any available*  
33 *means, including resort to force and violence*  
34 *[Definition of Communism, Title 50, Section 841]*

35 In America, State governments are but trustees acting under a derived authority [of the People]. The  
36 states formed the federal government and made the federal government subject to the states, not the  
37 states to the federal governments. But, the incorporation of the federal government into the United  
38 States, Inc. and the states and their courts into corporations have effectively turn a constitutional  
39 republic into fascist state.

1 **In America, the average Citizen has no duty to the government because the government is not**  
2 **greater than the sovereign Citizen.**

3 *“The individual [and, or church] may stand upon his constitutional rights as a citizen.*  
4 *He is entitled to carry on his private business in his own way. His power to contract is*  
5 *unlimited. He owes no duty to the State or to his neighbors to divulge his business, or to*  
6 *open his doors to investigation, so far as it may tend to criminate him. **He owes no such***  
7 ***duty to the State,** since he receives nothing therefrom, beyond the protection of his life*  
8 *and property. His rights are such as existed by the law of the land long antecedent to*  
9 *the organization of the State, and can only be taken from him by due process of law,*  
10 *and in accordance with the Constitution”*  
11 *[Hale v. Henkle, 201 U.S. 43 (1906)]*

12 In America, **Congress cannot pass a law regulating religion or the church or the individual’s right**  
13 **to believe and practice his religion** (First Amendment). Congress cannot pass a law requiring  
14 churches to register with the government, or a law that requires churches to pay taxes, or a law that  
15 restricts churches involvement in the political process. **BUT**, Congress can regulate those churches that  
16 give up their Biblical authority, that give up their Constitutional rights, and agree to become  
17 government regulated organizations (501 c 3).

18 In conclusion, it is the general duty of Christians to obey their rulers. However, the unbalanced  
19 teaching that unconditional obedience is the will of God at all times for all believers in all political  
20 systems fails to take into account the limited nature of obedience to the rule of men, the limitations  
21 placed on government per the U.S. Constitution, and the limited nature of the authority of U.S.  
22 government; that is, unless one is involved in a contract with the United States, Inc., no citizen is  
23 obligated to do anything Congress legislates. Unless there is a court order, the citizen can ignore any  
24 administrative summons issued by an agency of the federal government. For preachers to teach people  
25 they must obey their government (the Feds) not only flies in the face of the whole of God’s Word, it is  
26 unsupported and unsustainable by our unique Constitutional Republic.

## 27 **5 A KEY TO ACCEPTABLE DISOBEDIENCE**

28 *“Resisting tyranny is service to God”*  
29 *[Benjamin Franklin]*

30 *“Upon these two foundations, the law of nature and the law of revelation, depend all*  
31 *human laws; that is to say, no human laws should be suffered to contradict these. . .*  
32 *. . . Nay, if any human law should allow or enjoin us to commit it, **we are bound to***  
33 ***transgress that human law,** or else we must offend both the natural and the divine,”*  
34 *[William Blackstone]*

### 35 **5.1 When it is right to disobey.**

36 Romans 13 has been misapplied by modern Bible teachers because many have used Romans 13 by  
37 over extending the application of the passage to include unlimited obedience to government and to  
38 exclude the nature of this constitutional republic in their teaching. This flaw has served the lust for  
39 power among government officials and produced passive, sheepish Christian fearful of asserting their  
40 rights or demanding their government stay within the limits of constitutional restraints. The pastors of

1 the Revolutionary Period certainly knew Romans 13 well, yet felt justified in encouraging America's  
2 independence from rebellious King George. Were they carnal Christians or did they know something  
3 modern Christians do not know?

4 The Founding Fathers believed that they were **not** rebelling against God or resisting ordained  
5 government but only tyranny. In fact, the first national motto proposed for America in August 1776  
6 was "Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God" 17 – a summation of the famous 1750 sermon 18  
7 preached by the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Mayhew (a principle figure in the Great Awakening).



Our world is under the influence of the fall, and evil men rise to power in God's holy institutions. How should Christians respond to the tyranny of a Nero, or a King George, or a Hitler, or a Pol Pot? Is unconditional obedience and total compliance with government policy mandatory for Christians under regimes that disobey God's Laws and crush the rights of humanity? Is the voting booth the only way to influence government? Our own Declaration testifies to the fact that men are prone to tolerate evil rather than to right wrongs.

22 Obedience to God should be unlimited and unrestricted, but obedience to government is always limited  
23 and restricted. In light of the tendency of man to tolerate evil rather than opposing it, it behooves  
24 believers to ask the following questions:

## 25 **5.2 God's disobedient heroes of faith**

- 26 1. Was it right for Joseph to disobey his boss's wife (Genesis 39)?
- 27
- 28 2. Was it right for Moses' parents to disobey the civil authority over them and not kill their baby  
29 (Exodus 1)?
- 30
- 31 3. Was it right for the Hebrew midwives to disobey the Egyptian government and save the babies  
32 (Exodus 1)?
- 33
- 34 4. Was it right for Rahab to disobey the king of Jericho (Joshua 2)?
- 35
- 36 5. Was it right for Ruth to disobey her mother-in-law (Ruth 1)?
- 37
- 38 6. Was it right for the judges in the Book of Judges to take up the sword, organize an army, and  
39 overthrow wicked governments?
- 40
- 41 7. Was it right for Sampson to disobey the Philistine government officials (Judges 16)?
- 42

- 1 8. Was it right for David to disobey his older brothers and not go home as ordered (1 Samuel 17)?
- 2
- 3 9. Was it right for Jonathan to disobey his Father and not deliver David to Saul (I Samuel 20)?
- 4
- 5 10. Was it right for David not to surrender himself to the will of the king who wanted him dead and
- 6 destroyed (1 Samuel 19-30).
- 7
- 8 11. Was it right for the younger prophet to disobey the older prophet (I Kings 13)?
- 9
- 10 12. Was it right for Naboth to refuse the offer of King Ahab to purchase his property (I Kings 21)?
- 11
- 12 13. Was it right for Elijah not to obey the summons of a king Ahaziah (2 Kings 1)?
- 13
- 14 14. Was it right for Elisha to disobey Elijah and not “Stay here” (2 Kings 2)?
- 15
- 16 15. Was it right for the Israel to submit to her idolatrous kings (2 Kings 17)?
- 17
- 18 16. Wasn’t Israel sent into captivity because they obeyed their idolatrous kings (2 Kings 17)?
- 19
- 20 17. Wasn’t Israel chided by God for obeying the laws of King Omri (Micah 6:16)?
- 21
- 22 18. Was it right for Jehoiada the priest to resist the de facto queen and over throw her rule (2 Kings 11)
- 23
- 24 19. Was it right for the three Hebrews to remain standing after the king’s order to bow (Daniel 3)?
- 25
- 26 20. Was it right for the other 2000 Jews in the crowd to bow at the Nebuchadnezzar’s executive order?
- 27
- 28 21. Was it right for the three Hebrews to stand when the king order them to bow (Daniel 3)?
- 29
- 30 22. Was it right for Daniel to pray after an executive order forbidding prayer to any God but the king
- 31 (Daniel 6)?
- 32
- 33 23. Was it right for Habakkuk and Zechariah to encourage Israel to disobey the Persian king and revive
- 34 the building of the temple after they were ordered to stop (Ezra 4 & 5)?
- 35
- 36 24. Was it right for the prophets of Israel to rebuke the government for not submitting to the laws of
- 37 YHWH and risk life and limb for their message (Hebrews 11)?
- 38
- 39 25. Was it right for Peter to keep on preaching Christ after Israel’s government ordered him to stop
- 40 preaching (Acts 5)?
- 41
- 42 26. Was it right for Martin Luther to disobey the Pope (15<sup>th</sup> Century).
- 43
- 44 27. Was John Huss wrong for resisting the hierarchy of the Catholic Church (14<sup>th</sup> Century)?
- 45
- 46 28. Was it right for John Bunyan to refuse to take a government license to preach the gospel—
- 47 something that cost him years in prison (16<sup>th</sup> Century)?
- 48

- 1 29. Was it right for the Pilgrims not to submit to the King of England (1620)?
- 2
- 3 30. Was it right for John Hancock, George Washington, and Patrick Henry to declare independence
- 4 from rebellious King George because of taxation and other reasons (Declaration of Independence)?
- 5
- 6 31. Was it right for Pastor Gad Hitchcock circa his election day sermon in 1774 to say, “with respect
- 7 therefore to rulers of evil dispositions, nothing is more necessary than they should believe
- 8 resistance, in some cases to be lawful.”<sup>15</sup>
- 9
- 10 32. Was it right for the Germans at the concentration camps to obey their wicked, elected officials and
- 11 kill Jews?
- 12
- 13 33. Was it right for the French underground to disobey the German authorities and to smuggle Jews out
- 14 of France?
- 15
- 16 34. Was it right for General Robert E. Lee to teach his slaves how to read and write so they could earn
- 17 a living upon their release when the laws of Virginia forbid him to do so?
- 18
- 19 35. Was it right for General Robert E. Lee to resist the federal forces marching into Virginia, to take up
- 20 arms, and resist the order of President Lincoln?
- 21
- 22 36. Was it right for Bostonians to trespass on private property and to dump tea in the Boston Harbor to
- 23 protest a tea tax?
- 24
- 25 37. Should Christians in the 1850s should have obeyed the Fugitive Slave Laws and sent runaway
- 26 slaves back to their owners?
- 27
- 28 38. Was it right for Robert E. Lee to disobey Virginia law and teach his slaves to read?
- 29
- 30 39. Was it right for the South to secede from the union because the north was taxing them into
- 31 poverty?
- 32



47

40. Was it right for the South to take up arms to resist northern aggression?
41. Was it right for Jesse James to strap on his gun to defend himself against corrupt civil rulers in Kansas and Missouri—corrupt republican governors that sent their troops to pillage, plunder, rape, mutilate, burn, and steal property of southerners?
42. Was it right for the United States to oppose Germany, Italy, or Japan in WWII?
43. Should Rosa Parks should have obeyed the local segregation ordinances and given up her bus seat to that white man?
44. Was it right for Judge Moore to disobey an order from the

1 federal judiciary and refuse to remove a monument of the Ten Commandments from an Alabama  
2 Court Room?

3  
4 45. Was it right for Sherry Jackson, former IRS agent, to expose the corruption of the IRS and its  
5 unlawful seizure of private property?

6 ***It is a lot easier to teach Christians to always obey their government than***  
7 ***to teach them when to disobey and how to posture themselves when evil is***  
8 ***at work in an through a political system.***

9 There is no requirement that we should submit to the authority of a State that does not honor God and  
10 His law—the Creator God, the God of the Bible. And, make no mistake about it. A government that  
11 perpetuates the falsehood that all religions are good, that permits the murder of unborn children,  
12 tolerates and promotes homosexual behavior, protects the porn industry, indoctrinates its youth to be  
13 state vassals, enslaves its citizens through fraud and propaganda, and steals from citizens in the name  
14 of taxation does not honor the true God or His law.

15 Generally speaking, Christians should obey the laws of the State, but there are times obedience to God  
16 demands disobedience to the State; that is, ***there are times when disobedience to government is***  
17 ***considered obedience to God.*** **If there is not a time to disobey the government, then the State is**  
18 **God!**

19 Remember, Jesus was put to death by people who had "no king [god] but Caesar." (John 19:15)

20 *“The Restraint of Government is the True Liberty and Freedom of the People”*  
21 *[Eighteenth-Century Common American Saying.]*

## 22 **6 A KEY REASON WHY THE SOUTH MUST RISE AGAIN**

23 *Shake yourself from the dust, rise up, O captive Jerusalem; Loose yourself for the*  
24 *chains around your neck.”*  
25 *[Isaiah 52:2]*

26 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, the great German poet and philosopher of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, observed a  
27 defect among men: *“None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free.”*



34 No doubt God’s people in Isaiah’s day saw themselves as clean and free, but the prophet saw them hopelessly enslaved. Like a night watchman, Isaiah shouted the alarm, “Wake up!” God’s people were asleep, their political system was infested by uncircumcised pagan politicians, and the citizenry was in groveling in the dust staked to chains.

35 Touted as the most powerful movement in fifty years, Tea Party  
36 members are calling for limited government and a return to the Constitution. Feeling the cuffs and leg  
37 irons on their wrists and feet, they are demanding Washington halt its enslavement programs. In a  
38 small way, it is like the spirit of the south has budded again on the compacted road of 150 years of federalism.



1 Responding to the Tea Party Movement and their claims of federal tyranny, Megan Kelly asked Allan  
2 Colmes on Fox News if Americans were losing their freedoms. Colmes assured Ms. Kelly that  
3 Americans had nothing to fear and that they were the freest people in the world (March 1, 2010).

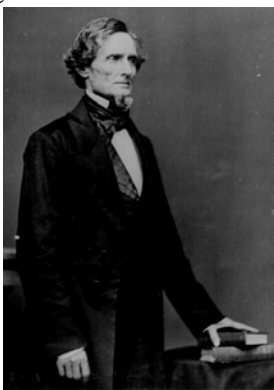


Most American would agree with Colmes. But, if you think you are free, try driving down the street without a driver's license; try building an addition on your house without a permit; try to get married without a marriage license; try digging a well on your property without a permit; try getting on a plane without having your body and bags searched; try paying a debt with silver dollars; try assisting a friend in court without a BAR card; try preaching outside a free speech zone; try feeding the homeless without a city permit; try to keep your entire pay check at the end

13 of the month; try selling pop corn and beer in the city park; try growing politically incorrect plants in  
14 your house; in fact try selling anything without a license and see how far you get. In some  
15 neighborhoods you can't park your car in front of your home, drive a nail into a beam on your door  
16 post to hang a plant, or leave a shovel on your porch or you will be fined.

17 Not only do we have more laws limiting our freedom than any country in the world, we have more  
18 people in jail than all the other nations in the world combined. 1 in 32 Americans is either in prison or  
19 on parole or probation. One in seven Americans (including Christians) will be in jail in their life time.  
20 Over 40% of people admitted into prisons in America are "convicted" under the "Political Code" and  
21 therefore, by definition, Political Prisoners. Daily state legislatures as well as Congress are devising  
22 new ways to legally plunder (tax) the earnings of workers. And, if you don't open your wallet and hand  
23 these agencies the funds they demand, the IRS will gladly send you threatening letters to pressure you  
24 into paying dollars for peace. In fact, the IRS places hundreds of thousands of liens on homes, bank  
25 accounts, cars, and paychecks belonging to the American people every single month in this country.  
26 The goal of municipalities seems to be to create as many laws as possible in order to make everyone a  
27 criminal. These corporations, police departments, and court houses are supported by fines and bonds.  
28 Our prison situation tells us that either Americans are the most criminal in the world or our  
29 government has created a legal situation that is the most oppressive on earth.

30 One hundred and fifty years ago, the South found themselves weighed down with chains around their  
31 neck. They fought the bloodiest war in our history for freedom. Washington had literally taxed  
32 southern states into poverty with their agricultural tariffs. Fearing total oppression, the southern states  
33 seceded from the union and one by one. As a free people they elected Jefferson Davis, a southern  
34 gentlemen and ardent Christian to be their president.



President Jefferson Davis said, "All we ask is to be let alone; that those who never held power over us shall not now attempt our subjugation by arms" (W. Jones: Christ in the Camp, p 43). But, they did! Typical of a tyrant, Lincoln turned the nation's armed forces lose on a free people to force them to accept the chains of federalism. Outnumbered four to one, "The Confederates wore themselves out whipping the Yankees and then collapsed from glorious exhaustion," say some.

Jefferson Davis got it right – *the principles for which the South fought were not resolved and they would rise up again in another place and another time.*

1 "Truth crushed to the earth is truth still and like a seed will rise again"  
2 [Jefferson Davis]



It has taken a hundred and fifty years for that seed to sprout. A little light shines. Through the Tea Party Movement, Americans are once again saying, "Washington, leave us alone! Your out of control spending, health care bill, and avalanche of laws are nothing more than an attempt to subjugate us as slaves on the federal plantation!"

9 Simply put, the spirit of the South **MUST RISE AGAIN**: "Awake . . .  
10 America . . . loose yourself for the chains around your neck." "the principles for which the South  
11 fought were not resolved . . ." *and they are rising up again in our time.*<sup>6</sup>

### 11 The Author

12 Dr. Brook Stockton is a retired pastor that has been in the Christian ministry for 40 years, He has  
13 started several churches and Christian Schools. He received his doctorate through Trinity Seminary in  
14 Newburg Indiana and served as Baptist pastor and seminary professor. He has been married to the  
15 same lovely woman for over 42 years, has five children, and nine grandchildren.

### 16 Recommended Readings

- 17 1. Pastor Greg Dixon, former pastor of Indianapolis Baptist Church, "Revisiting Romans 13"
- 18 2. *Socialism the New American Civil Religion*, Form #05.016, SEDM Website; <http://sedm.org>.
- 19 3. Pastor John Rusdoony. *The Institutes of Biblical Law*. The Presbyterian Reformed Publishing  
20 Company.
- 21 4. James Bolvard (1994). *Lost Rights*. ISBN 0-312-10351-4.
- 22 5. Judge Andrew P. Napolitano. *Constitutional Chaos*. Nelson Current.
- 23 6. Pastor Erwin Lutzer (1995). *Hitler's Cross*. Moody Press.
- 24 7. Pastor John Weaver. Sermons on the Civil War Period. DominionMinistry.com; and,  
25 Sermonaudio.com.
- 26 8. Gary DeMarr (1991). *You've Heard It Said*. Wolgemuth & Hyatt, Publishers, Inc. Tenn.

### 27 Appendix

<sup>1</sup> William H. McGuffey, McGuffey's Sixth Eclectic Reader, New York: American Book Company, 1879, p. 225.

<sup>2</sup> Erwin Lutzer, *Hitler's Cross*, (Chicago, Ill: Moody, 1995), p. 177.

<sup>3</sup> (Internet Resource: *Embassy of Heaven*, <http://romans13.embassyofheaven.com/submission.htm>; and, Jesuit Center for  
Theological Reflection, <http://www.jctr.org.zm/publications/goodconst.htm>).

<sup>4</sup> Paula Mooney, "Pregnant Woman Who Shot Herself in Stomach and Killed Baby is Acquitted-  
Judge Dismisses Case Against Pregnant Woman Who Shot Herself in the Stomach and Killed Child", *The People's Media  
Company*, associatedcontent.

<sup>5</sup> James Bovard, "Zoning: The New Tyranny," *Freedom Daily*, August 1996.

<sup>6</sup> Lutzer, *Hitler's Cross*, p. 150

<sup>6</sup> The confederate states wanted to retain the Stars and Stripes as their flag, but in a war, bearing the same colors were confusing. They South chose St. Steven's cross as their symbol because St. Steven was crucified for refusing to acknowledge Caesar as Lord. Likewise, the south confessed Christ as their Savior and refused to acknowledge Washington D.C. as their Master. The 13 stars represented the 13 colonies that freely seceded from England when King George resorted to oppression and tyranny to subject them to his will. The 13 stars were a reminder to the North that any union of states must be by mutual consent.

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<sup>7</sup> Lutzer, Hitler's Cross, p. 134

<sup>8</sup> Judge Roy Moore, So Help me God, p. 7.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, p. 4.

<sup>10</sup> Edward Abbey, *Liberty-Tree*, quotes on law.

<sup>11</sup> Quoting Gad Hitchcock, Sacvan Bercovitch, ed., The Cambridge History of American Literature. Vol. 1, 1590-1820, p. 414.

<sup>12</sup> William Blackstone, "Of the Nature of Laws in General", Blackstone Commentaries, (Online Resource: [constitution.org/tb/tb-1102.htm](http://constitution.org/tb/tb-1102.htm)).

<sup>13</sup> Quoted by Bob Halstrom, "Barrister's Inn on Common Law," Lecture Series.

<sup>14</sup> Eduardo Rivera, Attorney at Law, "Duty", p. 6.

<sup>15</sup> Quote from Pastor Gad Hitchcock in 1774, The Cambridge History of American Literature, Vol. 1, Ed. Sacvan Bercovitch.