

Sunday morning, January 10, 2016

Fifth Commandment series: To Honor Parents Is To Honor the Authority of the State

Exodus 20:12; Romans 13:1-7

- I. The Believer's Normal Response of Submission to Civil Authority
 - A. Submission Is Obedience to Laws
 - 1. Submission from All Citizens 13:1
 - 2. Submission to All Government 13:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-15
 - 3. Submission to All Laws 13:6, 7
 - B. Submission to Civil Government Is Obedience Towards God
Rom. 13:2, 5; Eph. 6:1, 5, 6.
- II. The Believer's Exceptional Response of Civil Disobedience
 - A. Situation #1: When the Government *Requires* the Christian to Sin
 - 1. The Believer must Obey the Lord - He Cannot Submit to the Government
Ac. 4:18-20; 5:27-29; Exo. 1:17; 1 Sam. 22:17
 - 2. And Therefore the Believer Disobeys the Civil Government
 - B. Situation #2 – When the Government Does Not Require the Christian to Sin, but its Laws *Allow* Sin
 - 1. We Are to Always Oppose Bad Laws
 - 2. We Are to Work for Just Laws
 - 3. We Are to Depend on Moral Persuasion
 - 4. We Are to Persevere Mic. 6:8
 - 5. But up until We Are *Required* to Sin *Ourselves*, We Submit
 - 6. We Are to Believe this Too Is God's Appointment for God's Purposes
 - a. All Christians at All Times Never Take Law into Their Own Hands
Rom. 12:17, 19; 13:4; 1 Thess. 5:15
 - b. We Wait for the Lord to Bring about Justice 1 Cor. 6:6

Quotes

“It is the duty of people to pray for those in authority, to honor them, to pay them taxes or other revenue, to obey their lawful commands and to be subject to their authority for conscience sake. Irreligion or indifference in religion does not void the just and legal authority of office holders nor free the people, ecclesiastical persons included, from their due obedience to them. . .”

Westminster Confession, chapter 23.4

“All who oppose the civil order which God has instituted, who strive to trouble everyone and reduce everything to confusion, are worse than brute beasts.”

John Calvin

“If we are cruelly tormented by a savage prince... let us first be mindful of our own misdeeds, which without doubt are chastised by such whips of the Lord. By this, humility will restrain our impatience. Let us then also call this thought to mind, that it is not for us to remedy such evils; that only this remains, to implore the Lord’s help, in whose hand are the hearts of kings, and the changing of kingdoms . . . For if the correction of unbridled despotism is the Lord’s to avenge, let us not at once think that it is entrusted to us, to whom no command has been given except to obey and suffer.”

John Calvin

“We are not only subject to the authority of princes who perform their office toward us uprightly and faithfully as they ought, but also to the authority of all who, by whatever means, have got control of affairs.”

John Calvin

“In our day, breaking laws to make a dramatic point is the ultimate logic of terrorism, not civil disobedience . . . Civil disobedience, like law itself, is habit-forming, and the habit it forms is destructive of law.”

Charles Colson

“Real social changes cannot take place unless a nation’s character demands them.” And quoting Russel Kirk, “The long-run decisions of the electorate are formed not by party platforms and campaign speeches, but by visions—by prejudices, if you will. Only the changing of such visions can produce large enduring political alterations, for better or worse.”

Charles Colson

“The truths of the Judeo-Christian tradition are infinitely precious, not only, as I believe, because they are true, but also because they provide the moral impulse which alone can lead to that peace . . . for which we all long. . . There is little hope for democracy if the hearts of men and women in democratic societies cannot be touched by a call to something greater than themselves. Political structures, state institutions, collective ideals are not enough. We, parliamentarians, can legislate for the rule of law. You, the church, can teach the life of faith.”

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher addressing the GA of The Church of Scotland

“If we give in to the urge to use image over argument, appeal to inflamed passions over Spirit-led discernment of truth, then we confirm the Washington Post’s critique of the fundamental and evangelical Christian community as ‘poor, uneducated, and easy to command.’”

Lael Arrington

"Vengeance is forbidden us in every case, without exception, however wicked the man that has injured us may be, we must refrain from inflicting injury."

John Calvin