

## God or Government?

Acts 4:13-31

*Acts: The Real Church*

Pastor Phil Winfield

December 6, 2015

Bible clarity on the believer's highest loyalty

1. What can believers expect from religious and secular authorities? (v.13-18)
  - a. Believers that speak about the gospel should expect **critical examination** (v.13-14).
    - i. The Holy Spirit gives witnesses **unusual confidence** (V.13).
    - ii. The Holy Spirit changes people **beyond explanation** (V14).
  - b. Believers that speak up about Jesus should expect efforts to **silence** their message (v.15-18).
2. How should believers react when told to disobey God? (v.19-22)
  - a. Obedience to civil authorities is a **scriptural imperative**. Rom 13; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Pet 2:13-25
  - b. Obedience to God is the **prime directive** (v.19).
    - i. Christians make decisions based on what is right not on what is **popular, politically correct** or even legal.
    - ii. Christians make decisions based on what they know **to be true** (v.20).
  - c. God is always the **highest authority** (v.21-22).
3. Who is the believer's resource when suffering wrong for doing right? (v.23-31)
  - a. We should seek **other believers** in the trial of our faith (v.23).
  - b. We should **join together** in prayer to seek God in the trials of our faith (v.24-28)
  - c. We should ask for **bold confidence** in the trials of our life (v.29-30).
  - d. We should expect an answer to the prayer for boldness because God **delights in it** (v.31).