

Pastor Keller Hackbusch, Community Bible Church

Fighting the Culture War with Truth, Part 7 – Church and State

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Francis Schaeffer, *A Christian Manifesto* (Crossway, 1981)

Glenn Sunshine, *Slaying Leviathan* (Cannon Press, 2020)

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (published 1776)

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion Book 4, Section 20* (published between 1536-1560)

James Bannerman, *The Church of Christ*, (Banner of Truth Trust, 2016, originally 1869)

John MacArthur, *Why the Government Can't Save You* (Word Publishing, 2000)

Tom Ascol & Jared Longshore, *Strong and Courageous*, (Founders Press, 2020)

Deep Dive Books

Augustine, *The City of God*, (published in 426)

Samuel Rutherford, *Lex Rex: The Law is King* (Cannon Press, 2020, originally 1644)

Stephen Junius Brutus, *Vindiciae Contra Tyrannos: A Defense of Liberty Against Tyrants* (Cannon Press, 2020, originally 1579)

John Locke, *Two Treatise of Government* (published 1689)

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Jay, *The Federalist Papers* (published 1788)

Declaration of Independence (1776)

United States Constitution with Bill of Rights

Fighting the Culture War with Truth, Part 7 – Church and State

Authority of Government

Rom. 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. **3** For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, **4** for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. **5** Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. **6** For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. **7** Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

1st - God is the Source of All Authority

John 19:8 When Pilate heard what they said, he was more afraid than ever, **9** and he went back into the governor's residence and said to Jesus, "Where do you come from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. **10** So Pilate said, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Don't you know I have the authority to release you, and to crucify you? **11** Jesus replied, "You would have no authority over me at all, unless it was given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of greater sin."

Psa. 22:28 For the LORD is king and rules over the nations.

Prov. 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD like channels of water; he turns it wherever he wants.

Dan. 2:21 He changes times and seasons, deposing some kings and establishing others. He gives wisdom to the wise; he imparts knowledge to those with understanding;

1 Samuel 10

2nd - God's Purpose for Government

3rd - Christian's are Subject to Government

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work.

Authority of the Church

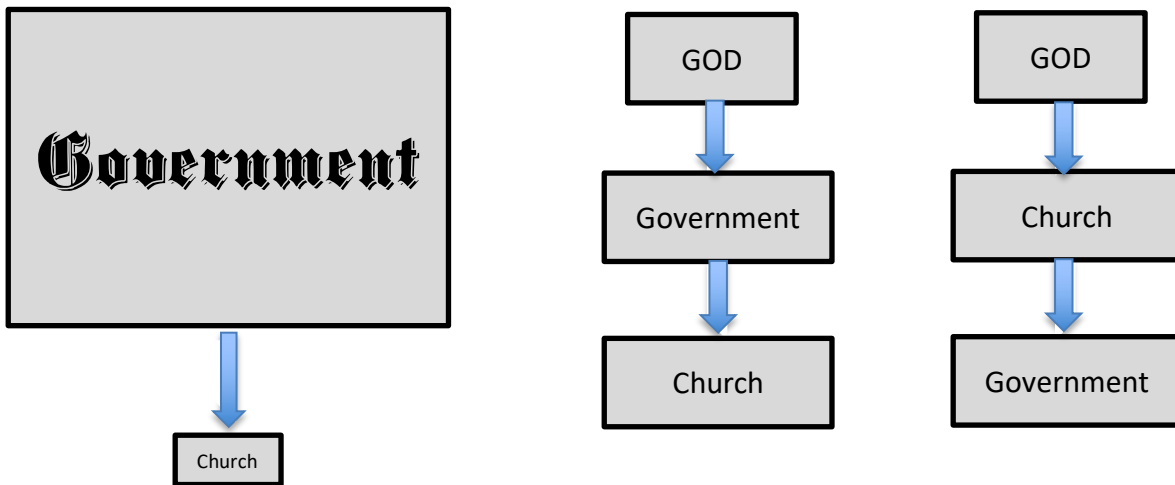
Matt. 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Acts 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

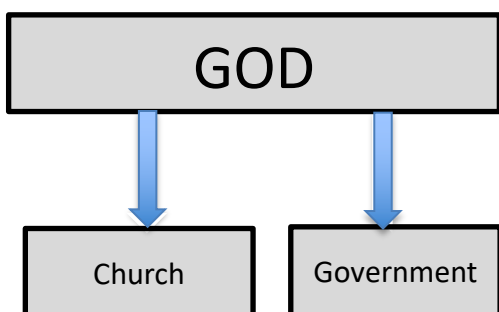
Eph. 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

1Cor. 3:16 Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? **17** If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Wrong concepts:



Correct:



Should Christians Disobey Government?

1Pet. 2:13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, **14** or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. **15** For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **16** Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. **17** Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Eph. 5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

Acts 5:29... "We must obey God rather than people."

As homework, read **Daniel 1-6**, the narrative section, before the apocalyptic visions

Christians Disobeying Ungodly Laws

Total Depravity

Francis Schaeffer wrote:

Since their concept of man is mistaken, their concept of society and of law is mistaken, and they have no sufficient base for either society or law. (A Christian Manifesto, p26)

The humanists push for “freedom,” but having no Christian consensus to contain it, that “freedom” leads to chaos or to slavery under the state (or under an elite). Humanism, with its lack of any final base for values or law, always leads to chaos. It then naturally leads to some form of authoritarianism to control the chaos. (A Christian Manifesto, p29-30)

Constitution

Declaration of Independence...July 4, 1776:

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new

Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

US Constitution, 1st Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

It is not too strong to say that we are at war, and there are no neutral parties in the struggle. One either confesses that God is the final authority, or one confesses that Caesar is Lord. (Schaeffer, A Christian Manifesto, p116).

Side Note: Masks

Christian and the Use of Force

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Christian's Responsibility in Government/Politics

1. Pray
2. Be informed
3. Vote
4. Use the system
5. Promote truth
6. Submit where you can & be a peacemaker
7. Expose evil
8. Always obey God
9. Be strong & courageous
10. Protest, resist, & disobey where necessary