

- I. The General Principle of Submission to Civil Government
(Exo 20:12; Rom 13:1-7; 1 Pet 2:13-14; Tit 3:1)

- II. The Purpose and Scope of Civil Government (Gen 9:5-6; Rom 13:3-4; 1 Pet 3:12)

- III. Principles of Civil Disobedience
 - A. Rejected Principle: "Obey good laws and disobey bad laws."

 - B. First Principle: "What God has forbidden should never be done" (Exo 1; Josh 2)

 - C. Second Principle: "What God has required, should always be done"
(Dan 6; Acts 4:19-20; 5:29, 41)

- IV. Seek Reform through Lesser Magistrates (Est 7)

- V. The Question of Government Overthrow: Rebellion, Secession, Revolution, and/or Independence (1 Kings 11; 2 Kings 11)

Reflection and Application Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. What is the purpose and duty of civil government? What are some of the dangers of government exceeding its basic duties to protect the nation, punish evildoers and praise those who do good?
2. What are some historical examples of civil disobedience?
3. Have you ever engaged in civil disobedience? Why or why not?
4. What is the doctrine of the lesser magistrate?