

02 God and Government – Personal Civil Disobedience

Series God and Government Pt 2

August 16th P. M. Service

Reading **Danial 1:1-8**

Last week we started a series on God and Government. We have come to a time in our lives where Christians are starting to talk about civil disobedience. With this in mind, it is important for us to know what God requires from us, where our duties and freedoms in Christ lay. To know our areas of responsibility, we must know the verses that tell us what is required of us by God. This is done like in any other area of scripture, we compare scripture with scripture to find the sum of God's truth. Join us as we look at the when we can biblically stand against the law of our land.

- Last week we talked about our foundation stones. In all of our study of what is going on, we need to have these principles laid down and firm in our heart.
 - Attitudes:
 - **Col 4:6** *6* Let your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.
 - **1 Peter 3:15** ¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God¹ in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;
 - Source of Biblical Authority
 - All authority comes from God.
 - **Romans 13:1** Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.
 - **Matthew 28:18-20** ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ "Go therefore¹ and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen¹.
 - All Authority has limits / Areas of responsibilities
 - **Mat 22:21** ²¹ They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."
 - Areas of Biblical Authority
 - **Personal Authority**
 - **2Co 5:10-11** ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.
 - All commands are personal to us, and punishment is personal.
 - There are also national punishments.
 - **Family Authority** – Rod of Correction Obey honor wisdom (discipline for disobedience, dishonor, foolishness)
 - **Deuteronomy 6:6-9** ⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
 - **Joshua 24:15** ¹⁵ "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
 - **Pro 22:15** ¹⁵ Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

- **Pro 29:15** ¹⁵ The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But a child left *to himself* brings shame to his mother.
- **Pro 22:6** ⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.
- **Eph 6:4** ⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
- **Church – Keys**
 - **Mat 16:19** ¹⁹ "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed¹ in heaven."
 - **Eph 4:11-15** ¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-- Christ--
 - **1 Ti 3:14-15** ¹⁴ These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; ¹⁵ but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
- **Government**
 - **Genesis 9:6** ⁶ "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. (The reason we now have Government. To preserve life by taking the life of those who murder. Punishing Evil.)
 - **Romans 13:1-7** Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴ For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷ Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due*, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.
 - **Titus 3:1-2** Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.
 - **1 Peter 2:11-14** ¹¹ Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. ¹³ Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good.
- Personal Civil Disobedience:
 - Question: Is it every right to refuse an order or to break a government law on purpose. –
 - Answer: Yes... When?
 - **Daniel 1:8** ⁸ But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

- God had clearly forbidden the Jews from eating unclean food. This included all meat with the blood in it, which many pagan cultures valued.
- Daniel respectfully requests fruit and vegetables... God blesses him with wisdom.
- Principle: ***What God has forbidden, can not be commanded.***
- **Daniel 3:13-18** ¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?" ¹⁵ "Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?" ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ "If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ "But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."
 - Principle: ***What God has forbidden, can not be commanded.***
 - **Exodus 20:4-6** ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.
- **Daniel 6:7-9** ⁷ "All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisers, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. ⁸ "Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." ⁹ Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.
 - Principle: ***What God has commanded, can not be forbidden.***
 - **Matthew 4:10** ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you¹, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve².'"
 - **Deuteronomy 6:12-15** ¹² "then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. ¹³ "You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. ¹⁴ "You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you ¹⁵ (for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.
- **Act 5:25-29** ²⁵ So one came and told them, saying¹, "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!" ²⁶ Then the captain went with the officers and brought them without violence, for they feared the people, lest they should be stoned. ²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, ²⁸ saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" ²⁹ But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.
 - Principle: ***What God has commanded, can not be forbidden.***
 - **Matthew 28:18-20** ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ "Go therefore¹ and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen¹.
 - God's Authority exceeds mans.
 - He commanded us to go and to preach and teach the gospel.

- Examples:
 - **Paul: Act 9:17-20** ¹⁷ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus¹, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately there fell from his eyes *something* like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. ¹⁹ So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰ Immediately he preached the Christ¹ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.
 - **Peter: Act 10:39-42** ³⁹ "And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they¹ killed by hanging on a tree. ⁴⁰ "Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, ⁴¹ "not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, *even* to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. ⁴² "And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the dead.
 - Every Christ since that time has preached / spoken of Christ in defiance of many different authorities.
 - Communism has tried to restrict parents from training their children.
 - Catholics have tried to forbid Protestant for meeting, reading the bible, and taking communion. (Death penalty – burning at the stake. Inquisitions. (~1150 - ~1810)
- Secondary Issues:
 - Times we yield our authority: Areas where there is a convergence of Responsibility:
 - Sickness, Plague. – The church has often yielded to the government in closing for specific periods of time, to help stop the spread of Plague. (Spanish flu, 1918)
 - It was for a specific cause...
 - It was for the general population...
 - It was a explicit period of time...
 - War time restrictions:
 - 1942: Churches were forbidden from showing lights at night on the coasts in case of bombing raids
 - Building Codes: Churches agree that life should be protected and valued, by government as it has this authority and this is also by scripture required.
 - **Deuteronomy 22:8** ⁸ "When you build a new house, then you shall make a parapet for your roof, that you may not bring guilt of bloodshed on your household if anyone falls from it.
 - Child welfare where true abuse is evident.
 - Churches have failed in reporting abuse and allowing the police to investigate. Both Catholic and Protestant churches.
 - Times the Church refuses – There must be specific scriptures you can point to.
 - When it involves the forbidding to teach any of God's Word.
 - When it involves the commanding to add to any of God's Word.
 - When it violates a specific directive of Scripture.