

“To Obey or Not Obey? That’s the Dilemma.”

Romans 13:1-7

How has this past year caused division in our nation & within the church among believers?

FOUR QUESTIONS:

1. WHO HAS AUTHORITY?

~ Key issue with civil disobedience is a question of authority.

- God is the _____ authority
 - ~ Isa 45:18 – “created... fashioned... [and] established” the world
 - ~ Gen 1; Ps 33:6-11 – spoke world into existence
 - ~ Col 1:17; Heb 1:3 – sustainer of this world
 - ~ Isa 14:13-14; Ezek 28:12-19 – Satan sees God as highest authority
 - ~ Rev 4:9-11 – praising God acknowledging authority/sovereignty
 - ~ Job 42:2 – God’s plans will come to pass
 - ~ Ps 1; Jas 4:7 – called to submit to the Lord in obedience

How would you define OBEDIENCE? – “*dutiful or submissive compliance to the commands of the one in authority*”

+ Dutiful =

+ Submissive =

+ Commands =

Our Example?

Why do we obey God?

- God _____ authority.

Areas of Authority:

- ~ 1 Cor 11:3; Eph 5:23 – husbands over wives
- ~ Lev 19:3; Eph 6:1; Col 3:20 – parents over children
- ~ Tit 2:9; 1 Pt 2:18 – masters over slaves
- ~ 1 Cor 16:16; Heb 13:17 – church leaders over local churches
- ~ Rom 13:1-7; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Pt 2:13-17 – government over citizens

What is important to know about government & God? (See Dan 2:21; Hab 1:12-2:20; Rom 14:12; 1 Pt 4:5)

2. WHAT DOES SUBMISSION MEAN?

“*hupotasso*” – “bring under firm control, have to submit, be submissive”

Submission is what?

Why be subject to governing authorities?

Rom 13:1-2 – God commanded it.

Rom 13:4 – Government is God’s servant.

Titus 3:2-5 – Our salvation.

1 Pt 2:13 – “For the Lord’s sake”

1 Pt 2:11-12, 15-17 – To glorify God.

3. WHEN ARE CHRISTIANS CALLED TO DISOBEY THE GOVERNMENT?

- ~ Not all government is “good” in that it is carrying out the desires of God’s heart.
- ~ **Romans 13 = not just instructions for just governments
- ~ 1 Peter 2 = Better to submit & suffer than rebel
- ~ God can use evil governments for his purposes

Is it ever justified to disobey government?

THE GENERAL RULE: *We must oppose the government when it requires that we do things that God forbids, or it forbids us from doing things that God requires.*

Be careful that you are not defying govt. for your own personal motives, interests, comfort, desires. Defiance must be scriptural!

WORSHIP GOD ALONE. Disobedience warranted...

- Exod 5:1 – when the government prohibits the worship of God
- Dan 3:1-7 – when the government requires the worship of idols
- Rev 13:4, 8 – when the government demands the worship of a man as god

PROTECTING INNOCENT LIVES & GOD’S SERVANTS (Exod 1; 1 Kgs 18)

OBEY GOD BEFORE MAN (Dan 6; Matt 2)

PREACH THE GOSPEL & THE WORD (Acts 4, 5)

4. WHAT OVERALL PRINCIPLES SHOULD WE BE AWARE OF?

- Submission is ultimately a _____ attitude.
- Do not _____ the governing authorities. (Titus 3:2)
- Be ready for every _____ work. (Eph 2:10; 2 Tim 3:17; Titus 3:1)
- Seek the Lord’s & trusted believers’ _____. (Jer 17:9; Prov 3:5-6; 11:14; 15:22; 24:6; Col 1:6; Jas 1:5)
- Accept the _____ for disobedience. (Phil 3:10; 1 Pt 4:10-14)
- _____ for governing authorities. (1 Tim 2:1-5)

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Are we more passionate about politics than God & what he has called us to?
Which has eternal impact?

- ❖ God is sovereign.
- ❖ God is working out things for his glory.
- ❖ Whatever happens, he is in control.
- ❖ Be prepared mentally, emotionally, spiritually.
- ❖ Be resolved to trust him.
- ❖ Be resolved to obey.

Based on what I have heard & read today, I will _____.