

# God and Government - Part 2

*Romans 13:1-7*

1. *Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.*

2. *Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.*

3. *For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.*

4. *For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.*

5. *Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.*

6. *This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.*

7. *Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.*

## **God's Kingdom Is Not On Earth**

*John 18:36* *Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*

## **Philippians 3 - Our Citizenship is in Heaven** (citizenship = politeuma)

*18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,*

## **Things Not Defined Here**

*Some things are worth dying for.*

1. When Government becomes God. (showing self to be God - absolute moral values)
2. When Government departs from the role God gave it. (instrument of God)
3. When Government legitimizes moral wrongs. (calls good evil, evil good)
4. When Government contradicts commands of God. (Thou shalt murder)

## II. God's Demands Concerning Conscience Concerning Your Heavenly Citizenship

*Romans 13:5 "Not only for fear of punishment but for Conscience Sake"  
"Civil Disobedience God Honors"*

### 1. Pray For the King to be Saved

**I Timothy 2:1-4**

*1. I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- 2. for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4. who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

### 2. Obey God Rather Than Man

**God's Commands Override the Commands of Men**

*Acts 4:16-19 But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.*

*Acts 5:18,29 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. 28 "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." 29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!*

### 3. Follow Conscience Rather Than Man's Laws

#### A. Role of Government - Romans 13:3-5

*3. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. 4. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.*

**A. Enforce laws and morality, no terror to right - vrs 3**

**B. Commend those doing right and punish evildoers - vrs 3b**

**C. Bear the sword against wrong doers, as an agent of God's wrath - vrs 4b**

**Isaiah 5:20** Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

**Romans 1:28** Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

## B. Role of Conscience - Romans 13:5

**Romans 13:5** Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. (right and wrong)

1 Timothy 1:19 Holding faith, and a good conscience;

1 Timothy 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

1 Timothy 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Titus 1:15 Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

1 Peter 2:19 For this *is* thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

1 Peter 3:16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

**Isaiah 5:20** Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

## C. Role of Obedience -

### God's Commands Override the Commands of Men

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(ie) The line in the sand - keeps moving, keeps retreating.

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## Examples of Civil Disobedience

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## **First They Came For The Jews**

First they came for the Jews

And I did not speak out –

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for the communists

And I did not speak out –

Because I was not a communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists

And I did not speak out –

Because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for me –

And there was no-one left

To speak out for me.

Pastor Niemöller, 1938

## **7 Conscience-Searing Policies of America Today**

*Conscience seared with a hot iron.*

*1 Timothy 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.*

1. Removal of the Bible, 10 Commandments (Distribution & Read Scripture)
2. Removal of Prayer, God, Christ (Praying in Public)
3. Evolutionary Teaching Mandated (Contradict Sinners, Untruth)
4. Abortion on Demand (Legalized murder)
5. Gay rights, marriage, pluralism, relativism (Legalized immorality)
6. Euthanasia - mercy killing, death, death by choice (Legalized Suicide)
7. Cloning - creating human life, Stem Cell Research (Being gods)

*Where is your line drawn in the sand?*

## **4 Conscientious Responses to Government**

1. Moral Outrage - speak out, cry out (John the Baptist with Herod)
2. Political Activism - vote him out of office.
3. Civil Disobedience - take a stand, line in the sand
4. Separation - home schooling, isolation, Amish
5. Revolt & Revolution? - Constitution: American Revolution, Bonhoeffer,

## CONCLUSION:

### **We the People - Preamble**

*We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

### **Constitution**

*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,*

### **What Will (Can) The Righteous Do?**

*Psalms 11:3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?*

1. **Put God & Christ First** in your life and living. Matt 6:33 Seek ye first
2. **Read, Keep Informed** 1 Timothy 4:13 give attendance to reading, exhortation, doctrine. 1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God. 2 Corinthians 4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
3. **Speak Out in Public** - use every opportunity, every conversation
4. **Do What You Can** - support Dobson, Kennedy, write letters, etc. run for school board.

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## The Declaration of Independence of the Thirteen Colonies

In CONGRESS, 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. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. —Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain [George III] is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.