



THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Salvation by Grace Through Faith

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE GOVERNMENT

One of the issues a Christian must confront is our relationship to the state:

If we owe our allegiance to Jesus Christ, do we owe any to the state?



THE GENERAL RULE

Romans 13:1-2

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.



RESPECT AUTHORITY

For the follower of Jesus Christ, respect is the heart of all human interaction, especially with those in place of authority.

Yet, notice that this respect is linked to an acknowledgment of God's ultimate authority.



THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Romans 13:3-4

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**.



CIVIL GOVERNMENT

REWARD GOOD AND PUNISH EVIL

Government is necessary to promote good through reward and inhibit evil through punishment.



REWARDS	PUNISHMENTS
Tax Breaks	Fines
Awards	Limitation on Liberties
Special Privileges	Imprisonment
	Death Penalty

THE POWER TO LEVY TAXES

Romans 13:5-6

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.**



FUNDING GOVERNMENT

Christians recognize the government's right to levy taxes in order to fund its legitimate functions.



THE BIBLE ON GOVERNMENT...

Daniel 2:21

He changes times and seasons;
he removes kings and sets up kings;
he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge
to those who have understanding;



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Acts 17:26

And **he made from one man every nation of mankind** to live on all the face of the earth,
having determined allotted periods and
the boundaries of their dwelling place,



IS IT EVER RIGHT TO DISOBEY GOVERNMENT?

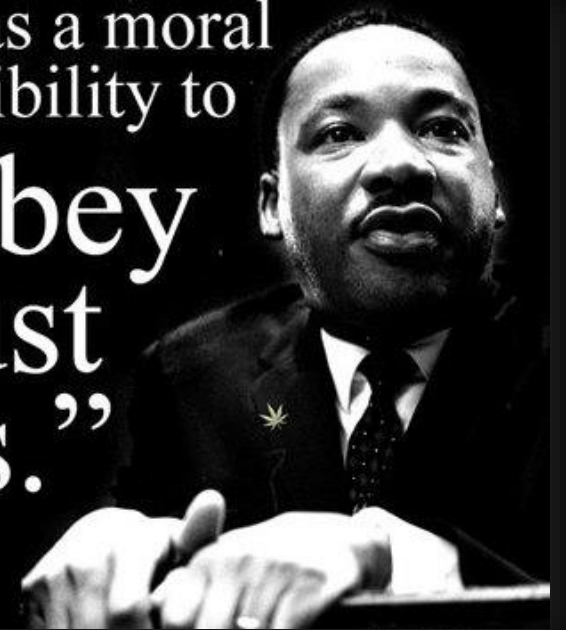
Acts 5:29

29 But Peter and the apostles answered, “**We must obey God rather than men.**”

When human law violates divine law, we may—and indeed should, violate human law and obey divine law.

“One has a moral responsibility to
**disobey
unjust
laws.**”

Martin Luther King Jr.



OUR GODLY HERITAGE

The Declaration of Independence

July 4, 1776

...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,

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...— 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.

PRAY FOR GODLY LEADERS

1 Timothy 2:1-2

¹ First of all, I ask you to pray for everyone. Ask God to help and bless them all, and tell God how thankful you are for each of them. ² Pray for kings and others in power, so that we may live quiet and peaceful lives as we worship and honor God.



GODLY CITIZENSHIP

May God help us
to respect and support
good government,
while striving
to influence it
for good.

