

***God Tells the
Government
to Kill People
and Take
Your Money!
(?)***



A FEW CHURCH AND STATE ISSUES

What have you heard about "the Church" and "the State"?

Does God have a right to tell a government what to do?

Does government have an obligation to listen to God?

What do you think are the similarities between (we can edit the list later)

THE CHURCH

THE STATE

What do you think are the differences between (we can edit the list later)

THE CHURCH

THE STATE

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT THE ROLE OF CHURCH?

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Mark 16:15 Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

Acts 13:2-3 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

John 18:36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

Summarize:

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT?

1 Timothy 2:1-2 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Titus 3:1-2 Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.

1 Peter 2:13-14 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

1 Peter 2:17 Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

Romans 13:1-7 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. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 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. 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. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

Summarize the 4 functions of government:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



GOD TELLS THE GOVERNMENT TO KILL PEOPLE?

What views have you heard on Capital Punishment?

FOR

AGAINST

How did God feel about Capital Punishment in the OT?

Genesis 9:5-6 *And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man."*

Exodus 21:12-13 *"Anyone who strikes a man and kills him shall surely be put to death. However, if he does not do it intentionally, but God lets it happen, he is to flee to a place I will designate."*

Numbers 35:16-21 *[A situation compels the Lord to command capital punishment.]*

Numbers 35:29-31 *"These are to be legal requirements for you throughout the generations to come, wherever you live. Anyone who kills a person is to be put to death as a murderer only on the testimony of witnesses. But no one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness. Do not accept a ransom for the life of a murderer, who deserves to die. He must surely be put to death."*

Deuteronomy 19:11-13 *But if a man hates his neighbor and lies in wait for him, assaults and kills him, and then flees to one of these cities, the elders of his town shall send for him, bring him back from the city, and hand him over to the avenger of blood to die. Show him no pity. You must purge from Israel the guilt of shedding innocent blood, so that it may go well with you.*

Deuteronomy 19:20-21 *The rest of the people will hear of this and be afraid, and never again will such an evil thing be done among you. Show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.*

Ecclesiastes 8:11 *When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, the hearts of the people are filled with schemes to do wrong.*

OT regulations regarding government (Theocracy) and worship (Sabbath, priests, temple, etc.) ceased to be required by God after he sent his Son to be the Savior. Those things were in place for a specific time and for a specific purpose, namely, to protect the line and promise of the Savior and foreshadow the sacrifice of the Lamb of God. We now have freedom in Christ where these things are concerned (Colossians 2:6-23, Hebrews 8:5, 10:1).

SO...



How does God feel about Capital Punishment now, in New Testament Times?

- Matthew 26:52* Put your sword back in its place...for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.
- Acts 25:10-11* Paul answered: "I am now standing before Caesar's court, where I ought to be tried. I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well. 11 If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!"
- Romans 13:3-4* 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. 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.
- Revelation 13:10* If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.

How would you respond if someone argued that God says in the 5th Commandment: "You shall not kill."?

What role does "vengeance" play in the death penalty?

What prevents people from seeing that God allows for capital punishment?

Must we insist that our government call for the death penalty in every murder? Any murder?

What do you see as the Christian's role in this whole matter?

GOD TELLS THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE YOUR MONEY?

What views have you heard on Taxes?

FOR

AGAINST

Matthew 9:9-13 (also Mark 2:13-17 & Luke 5:27-32) As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 11:19 (also Luke 7:34) The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and 'sinners.'" But wisdom is proved right by her actions."

Matthew 17:24-27 After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" "Yes, he does," he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes--from their own sons or from others?" "From others," Peter answered. "Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. "But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

Matthew 22:15-22 (also Mark 12:13-17 & Luke 20:20-26) Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

Romans 13:7 Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

How do you respond to the person who argues that we should not pay taxes because the government wastes so much money?

What situations would allow for us not to pay taxes to the government.

How can we effect changes in our tax code? Should we, as Christians, seek changes?

Is it okay to disagree on how much we should be taxed and what things should be taxed?

How should we feel about paying taxes? Are our feelings important?

What do you think about this charge made against Jesus?

"Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king." (Luke 23:1-2)

Other passages involving tax collectors

Looked down upon: Matthew 5:46 Matthew 18:17 Matthew 21:31

Jesus instructs them: Luke 3:12-13 Luke 19:1-9

Example of Repentance Luke 18:9-14

Did you know that God spoke this much about these things?

If not, does seeing what God says about capital punishment and taxes cause you to reconsider some views you have had?

PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for the blessing of living in a country where we enjoy tremendous freedom and where we can also exercise our Christian freedoms. Help us to be good citizens of this nation and faithful citizens of your Kingdom as well. Bless us and our country. Give us good leaders who know that they are your servants as well as public servants. Help us to see opportunities for us to express our values as Christians and influence those around us. Finally, prosper our nation so that we retain our freedom to proclaim the love of Christ and salvation in his name. Amen.