

THE BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Reference: **miscellaneous Scripture**

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Definition: Civil disobedience is the active _____ to be in compliance to certain laws, policies, commands and demands from a particular government.

There are three basic positions on the subject of civil disobedience:

- _____ - promotes a stateless society. The anarchist feels he is justified using civil disobedience whenever he feels it might be appropriate.
- _____ - submits to all government mandates no matter what those demands are
- _____ - submits to government authorities at all points **unless** government requires something from them that contradicts God's instructions
Reference: **Acts 5:27-29** and **42** (see screen)

Biblical Cases of Justifiable Civil Disobedience:

Exodus chapter one, Rahab, Jonathan, Obadiah, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Jesus, and Tribulation Christians, **Revelation chapter thirteen**

Questions: Do we, as a congregation, have biblical justification to act in disobedience to the governor's directives?
How do we react to government discriminating against public congregational gatherings?
Do we have a justifiable cause to engage in this civil disobedience?

Two Positive Arguments:

ONE - the _____ argument

Reference: **Romans 13:1-7** (see screen)

There are two interpretations to this passage.

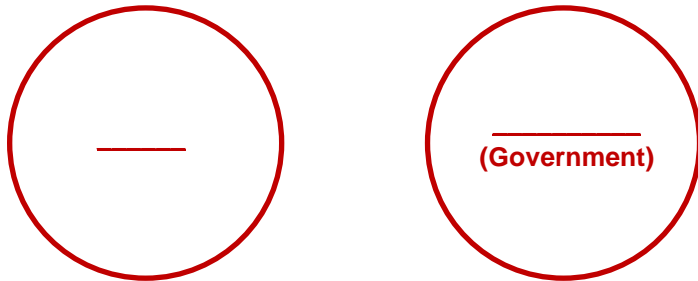
- "The Divine Right of _____" - God chooses kings (**verse one**) and so God therefore then expects people to submit to those kings He has chosen in all circumstances. Not to do that is considered insubordination and rebellion.
Proponent: **Martin Luther** (1483-1546 AD)

- “A Defense of _____ Against Tyrants” – government being ordained of God (**verse one**) referred to the **generic** institution of government meaning God has ordained **government in general**.
Proponent: **Phillippe du Plessis Mornay** (1549-1623 AD)

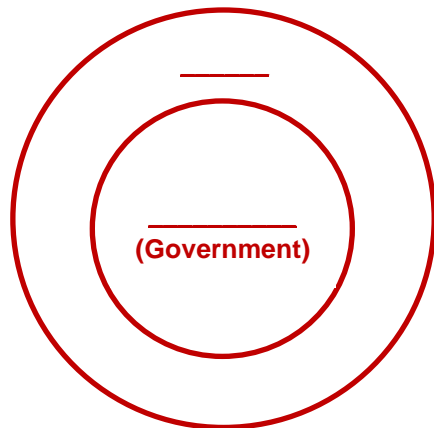
Most Christians and Christian denominations during the colonial period believed **Romans chapter thirteen** meant they were not to over throw government as an institution and create a stateless society, but felt that this passage did not require them to submit to every civil law without exception because some laws were unjust and tyrannical.

Reference: **Matthew 22:15-22** (see screen)

Most people have the idea that **verse twenty-one** means that God and Caesar or God and government are separate entities.



But, God and Caesar do not exist independent from one another. Because God is sovereign, God controls all things and that means that God controls Caesar and God controls government so the more accurate diagram describing them is one small circle inside the other larger circle.



The things that are Caesar's are those things that _____ has assigned to Caesar and **God has not assigned** to Caesar or government things that are _____ or _____.

Romans thirteen describes some of those God assigned responsibilities to government; but, notice God did not authorize governments the right to be tyrannical and totalitarian and punish people that do _____ things. We are **not** required to submit to government abuse and oppression.
Example: **Romans 13:1-7** revised for illustration (see screen)

Reference: **I Peter 2:13** (see screen)

The critical phrase is "**for the Lord's sake**." That phrase means "to _____ His name"; so, we are to submit to government as a means of honoring God.

PRINCIPLE: If a government passes unrighteous laws and issues unrighteous executive orders, then for us to submit to those unrighteous laws and/or executive orders would not constitute a righteous act and **it is not possible to submit to something unrighteous and still honor the Lord.**

TWO - the _____ argument

We have **received from God** the right to worship Him in a public congregational sense and the first amendment to the U.S. constitution guarantees us that divine right.

The **First Amendment** to the U.S. Constitution reads: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, **or prohibiting the free exercise thereof**; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; **or the right of the people peaceably to assemble**, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Question: is government violating the first amendment to the US constitution in preventing us from exercising our religious freedom to assemble together as a congregation and worship God as we see fit?

Answer: _____

Reference: **Hebrews 10:24-25** (see screen)

There is a direct conflict between God and government. God said do this and the Governor said don't do this. The solution to that problem is that we act in obedience to the _____ in this debate.

Definition: Secular progressivism is a _____ - _____ person or organization that supports and encourages modern liberal and leftist change and reform.