

## WHEN IS IT RIGHT TO DISOBEY YOUR GOVERNMENT? Pt. 4

Since all submission to government is rendered due to our submission first to the Lord as our sovereign God & Head of the Church, there are times when a believer may/will need to “obey God \_\_\_\_\_ than man” (Acts 5:29) when the two spheres are in conflict. This occurs when human government \_\_\_\_\_ its limits of delegated authority by \_\_\_\_\_ disobedience or \_\_\_\_\_ obedience in doing the \_\_\_\_\_ will of God as set forth in Scripture. However, the believer’s civil disobedience must be done upon \_\_\_\_\_ grounds, not first constitutional grounds, which may factor into the discussion later. The believer who chooses to disobey human government in obedience to Jesus Christ on biblical grounds actually \_\_\_\_\_ God (Ex. 1:20; Heb. 11:31) but also must be willing to suffer the \_\_\_\_\_ of that disobedience from man in suffering for “righteousness sake” (1 Pet. 3:13-17; 4:12-16). The scriptural accounts of acceptable civil disobedience revolved around the \_\_\_\_\_ of human life, the believer’s \_\_\_\_\_ to & \_\_\_\_\_ of God privately or publicly, and the furtherance of the \_\_\_\_\_ and sound doctrine through faithful believers and local churches.

### A. The OLD TESTAMENT Examples of Acceptable Civil Disobedience.

### B. The NEW TESTAMENT Examples of Acceptable Civil Disobedience.

#### 1. Peter and John Arrested & Threatened for Preaching the Gospel - Acts 4.

#### 2. The Apostles Arrested, Imprisoned, Beaten, and Further Warned – Acts 5:17-41.

- a. The *second imprisonment of the apostles* involved something highly \_\_\_\_\_, namely, “they were filled with \_\_\_\_\_”, while the first imprisonment was highly \_\_\_\_\_, namely, the \_\_\_\_\_ they preached. (5:17-18) Where were they placed and for what purpose?
- b. The *supernatural release from imprisonment of the apostles* involved the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord, who then commanded them, “\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ in the temple and \_\_\_\_\_ to the people all the \_\_\_\_\_ of this \_\_\_\_\_.” (5:19-20) How do we explain this release? What exactly was this message they preached?
- c. The *obedience of the apostles to the Lord* was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for “when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. (5:21a) Is this response true in your life and mine? What was the purpose of the apostles’ release?
- d. The *reaction of the Sanhedrin upon the hearing of the apostles’ deliverance from prison* was to be \_\_\_\_\_. (5:21b-24) What further details do we learn about the apostles’ deliverance? What should we remember from this?
- e. The *reaction of the Sanhedrin upon hearing of the apostles’ preaching the Gospel* was for the temple guard to \_\_\_\_\_ them a third time for violation of their previous mandate in Acts 4:18. (5:25-26) How did they proceed to arrest them?
- f. The *two charges against the apostles by the high priest* reveals the focus and effectiveness of their teaching as he declared ““Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And, look, you have \_\_\_\_\_ Jerusalem with your \_\_\_\_\_, and intend to bring this man’s blood \_\_\_\_ us.” (5:28) What is important to observe here?

- g. **The immediate reply of the apostles was definite and uncompromising, namely, “We \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ God rather than men”. (5:29)** Was this civil disobedience & what was the issue at hand?
- h. **The charge of Peter against the Sanhedrin was that they were guilty of \_\_\_\_\_, but God the Father \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus from the dead and \_\_\_\_\_ Him to His right hand to be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.** (5:30-31) Why did God do this?
- i. **The two-fold support of Peter’s charge and claim is both “\_\_\_\_\_” (the apostles) and “the \_\_\_\_\_”.** (5:32) Why are two witnesses mentioned? How does all this reflect upon Acts 4:29? Why is the Holy Spirit mentioned?
- What does it mean, “so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him”?
- j. **The two-fold reaction of the Sanhedrin was “they were \_\_\_\_\_ and plotted to \_\_\_\_\_ them.”** (5:33) Is this uncommon when government cannot control outcomes or people?
- k. **The counsel of the Pharisee, Gamaliel, was to leave the apostles \_\_\_\_\_ for if this is from man, it will “come to \_\_\_\_\_”, but if it is from God, “you will \_\_\_\_\_ overthrow it – lest you even be found to fight \_\_\_\_\_ God”.** (5:34-40) Is this counsel correct? How did the Sanhedrin respond to his counsel? Did the mandate stay in place?
- l. **The immediate response of the apostles upon being released was to leave “\_\_\_\_\_ that they were counted \_\_\_\_\_ to suffer \_\_\_\_\_ for His \_\_\_\_\_.”** (5:41) Is this how you would respond?
- m. **The following result was that, “\_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, and in every \_\_\_\_\_, they did \_\_\_\_\_ cease \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus as the \_\_\_\_\_.”** (5:42) What does this indicate? Was all this a bad “testimony” to others?

\*What do we learn from all this regarding ...

- 1) Civil disobedience?
- 2) The motives and methods of government over-reach?
- 3) Obedience to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?
- 4) The real power behind being a bold witness for Christ to others?
- 5) About suffering for Jesus Christ?

\*Some closing questions to ask yourself and evaluate?

\*If you are without Christ as Savior, how does this apply to you?