

## WHEN IS IT RIGHT TO DISOBEY YOUR GOVERNMENT? Pt. 1

### Some Preliminary Comments:

- 1) The Bible makes it clear that the biblical response to God is normally to \_\_\_\_\_ to human government, which involves obeying its laws, respecting its officials, paying taxes, praying for government leaders, etc. (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Tim.2:1-3)
- 2) Our submission to civil government is to be done not only out of \_\_\_\_\_ of civil punishment for non-compliance and evil-doing, but also due to a scripturally instructed \_\_\_\_\_ in obedience to God's \_\_\_\_\_ and for the \_\_\_\_\_ sake first, and then as a \_\_\_\_\_ toward the world as Christians. (Rom. 13:5; 1 Pet. 2:13-17)
- 3) As citizens of Earth, we are to render to \_\_\_\_\_ that which belongs to government (i.e. respect, taxes, etc.), and as a citizen of Heaven, we are to render to \_\_\_\_\_ that which belongs to God – ultimate obedience which flows from faith in God's Word (Matt. 22:21). But we must grasp that Jesus Christ is \_\_\_\_\_, not Caesar, and though government servants are the “ministers of God” (Rom. 13:3-6), they are not God. Therefore, believers must not relinquish to government any privileges or power that belong only to Christ.
- 4) While the government can seek to legislate a form of \_\_\_\_\_ through its laws and punishments (“good” and “evil”- Romans 13:1-4), which is always best when it lines up with biblical principles, only faith in Jesus Christ according to the Gospel can begin to accomplish true \_\_\_\_\_. (Rom. 1:16-17)
- 5) Though the whole world is under the sway of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 5:19), which impacts various false religions and human governments in promoting his globalist agenda (2 Thess. 2:1-12; Rev.13), yet God has still divinely \_\_\_\_\_ the institution of human government to serve mankind though involving fallible and fallen humans to do so (Gen. 9:5-6). And while Christians can serve their Lord under all forms of government, some governments are more preferable to live under than others, especially those who have just laws that are impartially and appropriately enforced, and that respect the \_\_\_\_\_ of “religion” in principle and practice in contrast to violating religious rights & persecuting Christians and others.
- 6) In keeping everything in biblical balance, we must remember also the importance of \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 13:8-10), and the wise and godly use of our Christian liberties to not be \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 14:1-5) but to \_\_\_\_\_ together (Rom.15:5-6) and to strive together for the sake of the Gospel (Phil. 1:27). Our desire should be to use our liberty not for \_\_\_\_\_ reasons but to be a steppingstone to Christ & not be a stumbling block to others. (Rom.14:13ff; Gal. 5:13-14)
- 7) As believers, we need to remember that we are to learn the whole counsel of God, as “\_\_\_\_\_ Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is \_\_\_\_\_” for our spiritual growth, including what the whole Bible teaches about human government - which we will live under all of our lives. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 4:2-5)
- 8) Since all submission to government is rendered due to our submission first to the Lord as our sovereign God and 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 over-reaches its limits of delegated authority by requiring disobedience or prohibiting 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.

- 9) 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 others in suffering for “righteousness sake”. (1 Pet. 3:13-17; 4:12-16)
- 10) The accounts of acceptable civil disobedience found in Scripture especially revolved around the \_\_\_\_\_ of human life, the believer’s \_\_\_\_\_ to & \_\_\_\_\_ of God privately or publicly, and the furtherance of the \_\_\_\_\_.

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

### 1. The Hebrew midwives disobeying Pharaoh. (Exodus 1)

a. **The *problem*** - between the Egyptians & Hebrews was due to \_\_\_\_\_ of a perceived threat of possible \_\_\_\_\_ or government \_\_\_\_\_ due to the growing number of Hebrews in the land. (1:6-10)

b. **The *plan* to address this involved:**

1) First, the loss of personal \_\_\_\_\_ through a form of \_\_\_\_\_ reduction / control involving forced \_\_\_\_\_ (slavery) which resulted in the building of Egyptian cities (good cause justification). This solution failed as the Hebrew population grew, though their lives became \_\_\_\_\_, their labor more demanding, and the Egyptians \_\_\_\_\_ them. (1:11-14)

2) Secondly, a plan of private \_\_\_\_\_ was implemented by Pharaoh demanding that the Hebrew midwives murder all Hebrew \_\_\_\_\_ upon birth, as part of Pharaoh’s plan for population reduction / construction and Satan’s plan to thwart the Messiah’s coming. This “solution” also failed because two Hebrew midwife administrators \_\_\_\_\_ the King’s command because they \_\_\_\_\_. (1:15-19). This obedience to God & disobedience to government (that had over-stepped its delegated authority) \_\_\_\_\_ God and He blessed these God-fearing women, though the agonizing labor conditions did not improve for the Hebrews. (1:20-21)

3) Thirdly, a public plan of genocide was instituted in which Pharaoh “\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ people (the Egyptians) to cast into the Nile \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrew \_\_\_\_\_ which was born. (1:22)

c. **The *principle*:** Acceptable civil disobedience is when out of a genuine \_\_\_\_\_, believers trust / obey God instead of man, resulting in righteous actions, especially the \_\_\_\_\_ of human life.

### 2. Rahab hiding the Israelite spies. (Joshua 2)

a. **The *context*** – God is soon to fulfill His promise to bring Israel into the promised land, and a Jewish reconnaissance team comes to spy secretly the city of Jericho. In doing so, they providentially come to the house a prostitute named \_\_\_\_\_. (2:1-2)

b. **The *civil disobedience*** – Rahab hides the spies, lies about the event, hides the two men, and \_\_\_\_\_ the King of Jericho’s command to bring them out. (2:3-7)

c. **The *confession, chesed, and covenant*** – Rahab then confesses her \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, & her certainty that the Lord had given the \_\_\_\_\_ to Israel. She also requests that her life and family be spared when Israel conquers Jericho because of the \_\_\_\_\_ she showed the spies, and they agree. (2:8-14)

d. **The *conclusion*:** While the Bible does not comment on Rahab’s lies, God \_\_\_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_\_ & the righteous actions of \_\_\_\_\_ human lives through righteous actions. (Heb.11:31; Jam. 2:25)

