

WHEN IS IT RIGHT TO DISOBEY YOUR GOVERNMENT? Pt. 3

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.

a. The *historical context*. (Acts 1-3)

b. The *activity of the apostles* was that they _____ the Gospel & Word of God to the _____ in obedience to God’s revealed will. (4:1-2) Why did they do this?

c. The *reactions* of the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sanhedrin were to be _____ and to “put them in _____ until the next day”. (4:3) Why was this the case and who is really behind all this?

d. The *response* of _____ who heard the Gospel was that they “_____”; and the number of the men came to be _____.”(4:4) What is the right response to the Gospel?

e. The *inquiry* at their *trial* was, "By what _____ or by what _____ have you done this?" (4:5-7) What could these leaders not deny?

f. The *bold answer of Peter* was simple and clear, “let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of _____ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, _____ Him this man stands here before you whole.” (4:8-10) What enabled him to speak with such boldness unlike the night in which he denied the Lord three times? What issue also did he raise?

g. The *scriptural reinforcement* that Peter then utilized was to quote _____. (4:11)

h. The *personal application & salvation invitation* by Peter stated, “Nor is there salvation in _____ other, for there is _____ other name under heaven given among men by which we _____ be _____.” (4:12) Is this still true today?

- i. **The *decision of the authorities* in light of the _____ preaching of Peter and John, along with the lame man _____ among them, was to “_____ them, that from now on they _____ to _____ man in this _____.” (4:13-17) What was the issue?**
- j. **The *Sanhedrin’s mandate* was to have “called them and _____ them _____ to speak at _____ nor teach in the _____ of Jesus. (4:18) Was this a government over-reach?**
- k. **The *refusal of the apostles* was an uncompromising rejection of the Sanhedrin’s mandate by stating, “Whether it is _____ in the sight of _____ to listen to you _____ than to God, you _____. For we _____ but _____ the things which we have seen and heard.” (4:19-20) Was this civil disobedience?**
- l. **The *release of the apostles* occurred after the Sanhedrin had _____ them as they had no legal basis for punishment or detainment, as well as recognizing that punishing them was not the popular thing to do as the people glorified God due to the healing of the lame man. (4:21-22) What can we learn from this?**
- m. **The *response of their fellow-believers* upon the apostles’ release & report was for them all to ...**
- 1) **Praise the _____ and _____ of God as demonstrated in creation (4:24b) and even over the anticipated opposition of human rulers against the Lord and His Christ (Messiah) as predicted in the Scriptures. (4:25-26)**
 - 2) **Perceive human _____, along with divine _____ in the working out of God’s designed purposes. (4:27-28)**
 - 3) **Pray for the Lord to “_____ on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all _____ they may _____.”(4:29) What also would accompany this ministry of the Word? Is this how you would respond to these threats?**
- n. **The *answer to their prayer* was immediate as “the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all _____ with the Holy Spirit, and they _____ the word of God with _____.” (4:31) What did this then result in? (4:32-37)**

- What can you learn from all this?

- 1) When the government requires disobedience or prohibits obedience to the revealed will of God, we must obey _____ rather than _____, knowing that there may be consequences. Amen?
- 2) Individual and group prayer should involve _____ to God for His attributes and provision, as well as _____ to God for what we or others stand in need of. Let’s pray like this!
- 3) We need to be _____ always, preach the _____ clearly, and pray for _____ so that the fear of man does not bring a snare in hindering us from speaking the Word. Are you willing?
- 4) Instead of coddling or cowering to our fears, we need to face them by _____ in God’s promises and by _____ to God Almighty to enable us to do God’s will. Are you? Will you?
- 5) Satan uses _____ from religion & _____ from government to thwart the spread of the Gospel & the growth of believers. Let’s pray for our gov’t leaders & other Christians who are being persecuted, and remember 1 Peter 5:8-11!