

ROMANS 13

Are Christians Always Supposed to Obey the Government?

Commentary Notes



by

Brooky R Stockton

E-Book

Commentary on Romans 13:1-8

Lecture Notes 3.3

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“Men are a product of their theology, whether it be right or wrong.”

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Maxim of Law: “A workman is worthy of his hire”

(Exodus 20:15; Lev. 19:13; Matt. 10:10; Luke 10:7)

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PREFACE

The whole foundation of this work is that Jesus Christ is Lord. If Jesus is Lord, then it is not possible or desirable to always obey the government.

“If we say that we will always obey the State, the State becomes our God” (Pastor Erwin Lutzer, “Hitler’s Cross”).

If you cannot say, “I do not consent” to an officer who commits ultra vires acts against the Constitution, then you have not perfected your walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The work is a collection of thoughts I was forced to develop as I smelled the garlic breath of passive Christians who were scared spitless about living as free men apart from government control. United States citizens are not free nor do they love freedom. Rather, they love big government and are happy to live out their lives in chains sucking the pacifier handed to them by the State. Some leaders in the church hold their congregations hostage demanding their members dot their i’s and cross their t’s regarding every code, rule, and regulation known to man. They even elect a church treasurer to become the uncompensated tax collector for the IRS duty bound to report the income of all the staff to this criminal organization. These people confess Christ as Lord with their mouth, but in practice the United States government is their god (Luke 6:46).

These people insist that Romans 13 requires the church to submit to Congress and every bit of legislation passed by that aberrant organization. While they know that Jesus is Head of the Church, the shepherds lead their flock to the gates of the Philistines to become a 501 c 3 organization to be ruled under the headship of the IRS. Diabolically, the incorporated “church” has two masters, and no church can serve two masters. He will love one and hate the other.

Furthermore, the preachers have made Romans 13 the umpire on the infield of Christian interaction with the State. But, Romans 13 does not control all of the Bible on God and government. Rather Romans 13 must submit to the whole Scripture, and the whole of Scripture does not teach unlimited submission to any government.

Furthermore, the United States is federal government of states with limited powers, none of which included the power to track, regulate, or control the lives of individual citizens. To say that Christians have a duty to the federal government is to contradict over two hundred years of legal history. Since Congress has no power to regulate free men, it is a great error for preachers to teach their congregations that they have a duty to obey the State.

“The most important principle to all three branches of government is the lack of power to create new legal duties for citizens” (Dr. Eduardo Rivera, Attorney, CA; “Duty, Part I”)

“The individual may stand upon his constitutional rights as a citizen. He is entitled to carry on his private business in his own way. His power to contract is unlimited . . . **He owes no such duty to the State**, since he receives nothing therefrom beyond the protection of his life and property. **His rights are such as existed by the law of the land long antecedent to the organization of the State**,

and can only be taken from him by due process of law, *and in accordance with the Constitution.*”
[*Hale v. Henkel, 201 U.S. 43 (1906)*]

The only duty Americans have is to recognize and discard an overreaching despotic government and to replace it with a guard that will acknowledge God’s law-order and protect the rights of man.

“But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce *them* under absolute Despotism, it is their right, **it is their duty**, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security”
[Declaration of Independence]

The Revolutionary War was started when the British regiment ordered the colonists at Lexington to lay down their arms. From a militia trained by Pastor Jonas Clark came the shot that was heard around the world. So powerful were the pastors during the Revolution, they were called the “Black Robed Regiment.” In order to win the war, the Brits burned church after church in order to diminish the power of pastors urging their congregations to take up arms to resist the Crown.

Where is the black robed regiment today? Instead of leading Americans to take back this country from the socialists that are pushing abortion, homosexuality, and massive taxation down our throats, pastors have gone silent. None are in danger of being called a threat to tyranny in the United States. Modern pastors who seem to have the backbone of a jelly fish are telling their congregations to not get upset, to calm down, and just submit to the NWO because Romans 13 teaches that that Christians should be subject to the will of the State.

Thus, this work challenges caramel Christianity and the spirit of docility produced by an errant application of Romans 13. This collection of thoughts on God and Government to be studied. Eat the good, chew on the fat, and throw out the bones.

Brooky Stockton, BA, MSL, PHD.

1 INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS 13

The fundamental premise of this work is that Jesus Christ is Lord, the King of the Nations, and the Prince of the Rulers of the Earth. The man who lives by His law does his neighbor no harm and is a threat to no man (Jeremiah 10:7; Romans 13:8; Revelation 1:5).

The gospel is the good news that God reigns (Psalm 97), and that His rule has entered history in and through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 1:14-15). This gospel “turned the world” upside down by teaching another king, King Jesus (Acts 17:6-7). But, in recent times, the gospel of the kingdom of God has been clouded by theological balderdash and Christians calling for obedience to overreaching police states. The fetters shackling believers is the misapplication of Romans 13.

Furthermore, the subject of law is the practical application of theology. The student of Biblical Theology must study law; and, to study true law, one must concern himself with Theology. Law is the practice of Theology; and, Theology demands the practice of law. All law, good or bad, is the reflection of somebody’s religious beliefs. And, people perform according to theology whether it be right or wrong. Furthermore, lawmaking is religious exercise because every law reflects the religious values of the lawmakers, howbeit, true or false. For example, the cutting off of the hand of a thief is an application of law stemming from the Islamic religion; likewise, the prohibition against cutting off hands for theft is the fruit of the Christian religion.

Are we Americans required to obey the orders of every cop? Most citizens would probably say, “No!” But, most ministers would probably say, “Yes!” based on their presumptions and beliefs about Romans 13.

The way we interpret and APPLY Romans 13 determines how we interact with government.

In our times, preachers have hammered, pounded, and beaten Christians into believing that Romans 13 is a command for maximum submission to the State.¹

For example, Pastor Ray Steadman taught,

“obedience is not based upon convenience, but rather it is a responsibility we owe because, as Paul says in Romans 13, all governments are “ordained of God” [Romans 13:1 KJV],” (Sermon: “Can we Trust the Government”]

New Spring Church has this phrase,

“the best way to demonstrate our trust in God is to continue to obey the law, pay taxes, and do whatever we can to live at peace with other people.”

¹ In this work the term “State” refers to a government service corporation, an artificial entity, a fiction of the mind, a dead entity with no conscience which is in contrast to the term “state” which is composed of living, breathing souls.

Bob Deffinbaugh³ (DTS) has this to say,

“Peter will inform us that we have the same obligation to obey our government as do unbelievers living in this nation, but the Christian has an even higher obligation than unbelievers.”

Got Questions? Kidz teaches,

We all need leaders who can help take care of us and make rules for us to follow. These rules are usually not meant to hurt us. In fact, they’re almost always meant to keep us safe and happy.

What? Where in Scripture does it teach we need government to take care of us?

Got Questions, Bible.org concludes,

“By this it is clear that Christians are to be in subjection to their government, national or local . . . God is the source of all authority . . . A government is to be acknowledged and obeyed by virtue of its existence . . . This means that the government of Red China is ordained by God . . . I want it to be very clear that **there are no loopholes in this first** verse. Every soul is to be in subjection to human government; any and **every government, by virtue of its existence** is, de facto, the government to which we must submit.”

According to “Got Questions” Christians are required to submit to China’s policies of harassment, torture, and murder even during the “House of Fear” (1967-1977) because the murderous regime of Mao Tse Tung was a government ordained of God. Even today there is an estimated 500,000 people currently enduring punitive detention without charge or trial, and millions who are unable to access the legal system to seek redress for their grievances. Should China’s home churches submit to the communist policy of government registration which requires pastors to enroll in government courses so they can learn how to merge the gospel with State doctrine?

Adrian Rogers of Denver Seminary did the Dance of the Seven Veils as he worked through Romans 13 leaving believers with the idea that they should throw down their arms and surrender to every wish and whim of government. See: Brooky Stockton: A Critique of Adrian Rogers on Romans 13 (<https://nikeinsights.famguardian.org/forums/topic/a-critique-of-adrian-rogers-on-romans-13/>).

Consequently, Christian soldiers are poorly equipped to confront the issues of our time.

While many preachers teach men must always obey the State, you will never hear them teach, “The State must always obey the Lord Jesus Christ!” Why is this?

The Bible contains the victorious history of the crucified, risen Savior, the theology of His redemption, and it contains a golden library of truth on God and government. It not only teaches Christians to obey our Lord, but it instructs rulers, kings, and politicians on how to conduct their affairs under His authority. Sweet Jesus is not only our Savior, He is the King of the Nations, the Prince of the rulers of the earth to whom magistrates must give account.

Sadly, this message seems have been lost behind the wretched subjectivism and the gospel of fire insurance.

Many of the ones pushing the doctrine of *total subjection of the total man to total government* (Lincoln's Party) seem to come from the dispensational camp of conservative Christianity. Those in the reformed camp seem to have more refined thinking on the subject of God and government because of their Puritan view of America as a "light on a hill."

The average preacher today has bought into statism-- that it is the unequivocal duty of Christians to submit to the State that sees itself as some kind of god; that is, good little boys and girls never question authority, proudly say the Pledge of Allegiance, sing the national anthem with hands across their heart, gladly own their social security numbers, and cross every "i" and "t" on government forms.

By listening to these total compliance teachers you get the idea that it is God's will for Christians to submit to leaders like Pol Pot and Stalin even though they ordered the merciless slaughter of millions of innocent people. Most Americans think informing the State where all their money is located, taking all recommended vaccinations, and always driving under the speed limit properly buckled is their holy calling. To these people, good citizenship seems to mean *the total subjugation of the total man to total government*.

You will hear them give sermons on why Christians must obey the government but you will never hear them give a sermon on why the "Government must obey God."

Instead of teaching Christians how to accept responsibility and be good citizens, these preachers tend to think the solution for every political problem is total compliance with State policy or "the rapture."

This unbalanced teaching has produced a generation of weak, mindless, mamsy-pamsy, effeminate, timid, docile, robotic, spineless, irresponsible Christians that have the discernment of a toddler and more sugar than the fairy godmother.

The average Christian prefers a church that feels like a rose-scented convalescent home than a battle station with believers singing, "Onward Christian soldiers marching off to war."

The greater problem is that modern pastors tend to preach absolute obedience to the State without teaching the State has an absolute duty to obey Christ. Moreover, instead of teaching believers when to resist bad laws and bad rulers, they have one remedy in politics – submit!

Peter and the other apostles didn't think slavishly toward authority when they said, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

We do not want to get rid of government; we want to get rid of evil at work through the apparatus of government. We are not against good rulers; we are against violation of God's laws by autonomous rulers. We are not against the *rule of law*, but we are against *rule by law, law, and more laws*.

We are for Christians obeying God's moral law, but we are against trading blind obedience and silent submission in a government ruled by secular humanists hellbent on creating a utopia near the rabbit hole of Alice and Wonderland.

We are not against freedom-fighters, but we are against anarchy – “every man doing what is right in his own eyes.” Because God is eternal and His law is based on His character, His law is absolute. All men have a duty to obey his law including presidents and chancellors.

We are not against obedience to good laws, but we are against fawning compliance with State policy that seeks to control man from cradle to grave.

While Romans thirteen supplies general instruction on the authority of civil government, **the whole of Scripture does not support unlimited obedience to any regime.**

If Jesus Christ is Lord, it is not possible or desirable to always obey the State.

Let's examine the text: (Greek texts may be unavailable in this program)

2 INTERPRETIVE PRINCIPLES

First, the Holy Scripture is the standard for faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16).

Second, in interpreting a document like the Book of Romans, the literal-grammatical rule applies.

Third, the plenary authority of Scripture must be invoked; that is, Romans 13 does not interpret the rest of the Bible on God and government. Rather, Romans 13 must submit to the whole of Scripture, and the whole of Scripture does not support unlimited obedience to any magistrate.

Fourth, we must make a distinction between interpretation and application.

Interpretation involves an analysis of words and how they are used in context so we can discern the meaning, intent, and extent of the text.

Application involves the skill of applying the text to modern times and current events. How Americans who live in a country where the State is subject to the Constitution and how the first century readers applied Romans 13 under the rule of Caesars will be quite different.

Americans recognize rights are given by God, and that the **ONLY** purpose of government is to protect those rights. In America, the people have rights, and are not generally subject to acts of the legislature; government officials have duties and no choice of what laws are to be enforced. Citizens are political sovereigns with a servant government that is supposed to be constrained by the U.S. Constitution. Americans are not subjects of a king nor are they slaves of Congress. They are free men bound only to the Common Law.

The great challenge is not interpreting Romans 13, but applying it in a country that established a government with limited powers. In America, the Constitution applies to the States and the federal government. While the federal government must act in conformity with the Constitution, the citizen has **NO** duty to the Constitution or the State (Hale v. Henkle):

Page 201 U.S. 74 and 75, "...we are of the opinion that there is a clear distinction in this particular between an individual and a corporation, and that the latter has no right to refuse to submit its books and papers for an examination at the suit of the State. The individual may stand upon his constitutional rights as a citizen. He is entitled to carry on his private business in his own way. His power to contract is unlimited.

***He owes no duty to the State** or to his neighbors to divulge his business, or to open his doors to an investigation, so far as it may tend to criminate him. **He owes no such duty to the State**, since he receives nothing therefrom beyond the protection of his life and property. His rights are such as existed by the law of the land long antecedent to the organization of the State, and can only be taken from him by due process of law, and in accordance with the Constitution.*

In this country,

*“ . . . be that as it may, there is no such thing as a power of inherent sovereignty in the government of the United States. It is **a government of delegated powers**, supreme within its prescribed sphere, but **powerless outside of it**. **In this country, sovereignty resides in the people**, and congress can exercise **no power** which they have not, by their constitution, entrusted to it; all else is withheld”*

[LEGAL TENDER CASES, 110 U.S. 421 (1884)]

In America, the people are regarded as kings, and officers in the government are viewed as their servants.

The great question Christians must ask is how does Romans 13 apply to Americans² with autocratic administrations and an unelected deep state that expands its power beyond Constitutional restrictions and acts like a tyrant spying on, tracking, and plundering its citizens?

Ministers that use this passage as a stick to beat the sheep into total submission to the State not only misapply this passage but fail to help Christians work through the complex issues that surround duties to God and their relationship to the State.

Amos 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge . . .”

² Americans would do well to make a distinction between “Americans” and “United States citizens.” The two are not the same (14th Amendment, Clause 1).

3 ROMANS 13:1

KJV Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

The phrase “**Let every soul**” (psuche) is a Hebraism meaning, “let every man (anthropos).” The term “souls” refers to living, breathing human beings, not corporations or artificial entities.

The adjective “every” or “all” (Pa/sa) is in the emphatic position emphasizing the fact that God wants all men to obey the command. The term “every” includes kings, prime ministers, presidents, governors, generals, and sheriffs, and mayors, and citizens.

The word “**subject**” (*huppotasso*) is a military term referring to soldiers who are required to submit to and obey their commander. “Subject” is a present, active participle enjoining “every soul” to obey the powers ordained of God.

The imperative to “be subject” is not dependent upon the form of government whether it be a dictatorship, a monarchy, a parliament, republic, or democracy. Any form of government is acceptable to God when that government acknowledges His sovereignty and limits its activities to its divinely appointed purpose. The whole idea that democracy is superior to a benevolent monarchy is nothing more than communist propaganda.

Furthermore, **God not only commands the people, but princes to be in submission to Him.** Civil rulers are not without the claims of God.

The God of the Bible called Nineveh to repent (Jonah 3), judged Egypt for its sins (Isaiah 19), and weighed Babylon (Belshazzar) in His scales (Daniel 5). If the ultimate authority is man, then all things must serve man and surrender to man's authority. If the ultimate authority is the Christian God, then all rulers and their governments must serve Him and surrender to His Law-word.

The plural noun “authorities” (exousia) informs us that there are multiple jurisdictions and levels of authority within institutions. The word is used over 102 times in the New Testament. It refers to duties that have been committed by a grantor to trustee(s) for the good of beneficiaries. In this text, God is the Grantor; rulers are the trustees; and citizens are the beneficiaries.

Just because a person shows up in a black uniform with a badge does not mean they have authority over you or anyone else.³ Men in black only gain jurisdiction if they are properly bonded⁴, and if there is “probable cause” like a crime being committed (Amendment IV).

³ A smiling baby with a thick head of black hair, Ingrid Ronan Johnson was born to a Miccosukee mother and a white father, inside Baptist Hospital in Kendall. Two days later, police detectives arrived at the hospital acting on a court order to remove the baby from the new parents. The order was not signed by a Florida judge, but by a tribal court judge on a reservation 32 miles away in the heart of the Everglades. The cops were from the Miccosukee police force, a department whose jurisdiction covers mainly the reservation and properties owned by the tribe. The hospital on Sunday allowed the baby to be taken away.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article206139429.html#storylink=cpy>

The duties committed to trustees in Romans 13 must be in compliance with the “ordinance of God” (v. 2) (Biblical duties [law] given by God to men) or what the Framers of the Constitution would call the protection of individual rights and the administration justice.

“**Higher powers**” refers to civil rulers working through the apparatus of government. It does not refer to general principles of corporations. The duties of State are carried out through individuals.

The term “ordained” means “to put in order,” “to decree,” or “to establish.”

God did not abdicate His sovereignty when He ordained civil authority on earth: “The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all” (Psalm 103:19) because He is the “King of the nations” (Jeremiah10:7). All who receive power are responsible to God and held accountable to Him.

God not only ordains the institution of government, He has a hand in the selection of its leaders.

Promotion comes not from east and west, but from God
[Psalm 75:6, 7]

He appoints good rulers to an obedient people and He is involved in appointing foolish rulers to foolish people as judgment against their folly. God not only promotes good rulers to test man's obedience, He permits evil administrators to arise within a system to test whether men will obey God or government? (See Isaiah 19)

NOTICE that the subject of government is a religious and theological issue. Both justice and injustice have their altars of religion. Therefore, the Christian must look at the government through the lens of Holy Scripture as a subtopic of Systematic Theology . . . and not through the lens of government propaganda or the frivolous opinions of political pundits.

Can we imagine a more loving plan for government than one appointed of God that acknowledges the authority of Christ, that encourages people to pursue virtue, that protects our God-given rights, that restrains lascivious behavior, and that prosecutes criminals with zeal and integrity?

The government to which God requires Christians to submit is a government that derives its authority from the Lord God and organizes its penal laws around the principles and precepts in God's Law-word.

Only this kind of government is ordained of God. All others are usurpers and pretenders—that is, de facto governments. Any obedience rendered to these is out of fear.

⁴ WE THE PEOPLE do not require badges. Most states require elected or appointed officers to take an oath to support the Constitution, and to post a faithful performance bond as evidence of their sincerity. If they have not posted a bond, they are imposters posing as a government officer.

Modern man teaches that the subject of government is purely a secular endeavor and that the political process survives best where **the doctrine of separation of church and state**⁵ are radically enforced. This is a pure falsehood. The Lord is the ONLY Lawgiver (James 4:10), and all government is under His jurisdiction.

*Jeremiah 10:7 Who would not fear thee, O **King of nations**? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all **the wise men of the nations**, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee.*

Psalm 22:28 says, "for dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations."

Modern secular men abuse the First Amendment by insisting that Christian beliefs be separated from political action. This ideology plays right into the hands of secular men who would like to eradicate every expression of Christianity in public debate.

*The First Amendment meant **Congress** is limited from setting up a national denomination and **Congress** is limited from prohibiting the free exercise of religion. The First Amendment does **not** limit faith or the people, **only the government** (Wallbuilders on Separation of Church and State).*

No thinking Christian would turn the government over to be run by secular men. Legitimate authority exists by divine decree. The whole idea that government is a secular concern and that Christians have no claim on the topic of government is secular propaganda -- the result of humanistic indoctrination—a perversion of the doctrine of separation of church and State to muzzle Christians from speaking out on political issues.

"Political secularism, he says, recognizes the legitimacy and even moral necessity of religious faith, while preventing any one faith from being established. Philosophical secularism, on the other hand, views religion more negatively and attempts to establish a common unbelief as a basis for government" (Wilfred McClay, Angle Conference, Key West, Florida, 2007)

It is God, not man, that established the institution of government (Genesis 9; 1 Samuel 8-9). In fact, [the First Pentecost](#) was a civil Pentecost wherein the Spirit came upon leaders of a nation (Numbers 11). Just as He is Head of the Church, He is King of the nations.

Jeremiah 10:7 Who would not fear thee, O **King of nations**? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise *men* of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, *there is* none like unto thee.

Revelation 1:5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and **the ruler of kings on earth**. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

⁵ The phrase "separation of church and state" is not in the Constitution. The phrase "wall of *separation* between the *church* and the *state*" was originally coined by Thomas Jefferson in a letter to the Danbury Baptists on January 1, 1802 describing how the two institutions act separately under divine decree; that is, the government has no authority over the church, and the church has no authority over the State. It does not mean that individual Christians can't rely upon their faith or express their faith to influence to influence public policy. This would play right into the hands of atheists, humanists, and secularist who seek to influence public policy through their beliefs.

“The Got Questions Organization” preaches that Christians need to submit to government, regardless of its character, just because it exists.

Did God ordain Nimrod, the Pharaohs, the Viking kings, the Huns, the Canaanite kings, Mussolini, Pol Pot, Mao Tse Tung and other tyrants and expect believers to submit to their every wish and whim? Of course not! Even the Hebrew judges organized a *coup d'état* against the Philistines, Moabites, and Ammonites in order to restore the God-ordained order in Israel. It would be an error to believe that a Stalin or a gang leader is ordained of God. Our Lord does not require us to acquiesce to tyranny. This would be like saying it is good to submit to evil.

Paul called Christians to expose evil, not to submit to it.

Ephesians 5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

Evil is not in the environment, it is within men. Evil is not in government, it is in men who run the government. When evil seeks to score a touchdown on the gridiron of politics, it is the duty of the good guys to tackle the bad guy with the pigskin regardless of his status in the league.

When King Ahab tried to do an end run around the law “thou shall not steal; thou shall not kill” regarding Naboth and his vineyard, Elijah caught up with him and gave the civil ruler a stinging message from God, “because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the LORD. . . . I will destroy you” (1 Kings 21:20). You can’t do this if you think your duty is to submit to authorities just because they exist.

Some pastors are so insistent Romans 13 means absolute obedience to government that they condemn the Framers for starting the Revolutionary War. Even John MacArthur, for whom I have enormous respect, has said, “So the United States was actually born out of a violation of New Testament principles, and any blessings God has bestowed on America have come in spite of that disobedience by the Founding Fathers.”

John is in error here. It was not the Framers who rebelled against England, it was King George who rebelled against God’s law, the rule of law, and violated the principles of good government (See the Declaration for the atrocities of King George.)

Our country was born out of resistance to an overreaching State. When King George rebelled against the law and his duty to the colonies, 56 colonial leaders pledge their precious all to resist the tyrant wearing the crown. Because King George rebelled against God and committed ultra vires acts against the colonies, the thirteen colonies had no choice but to separate and to form their own government.

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation . . . He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good . . .” (Declaration of Independence)

Paul is not teaching that every politician is from God or that Christians should submit to tyrants. Rulers do rise to power that are not from God. Some are vessels of glory and others are vessels

of wrath (Romans 9:22). Some are in place as a reward for obedience, and others are in place to test Christians **to see if they will obey God rather than man** (Deuteronomy 8:2; 13:3)! Selah!

Hosea at 8:4, "They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not."

Let's see how others translate Romans 13:1.

The "Authorized King James Version" reads, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God."

The *New American Bible* (1970) reads, "Let everyone obey the authorities that are over him, for there is no authority except from God;"

The Living Bible (1971) reads, "Obey the government, for God is the one who has put it there;"

The *Good News Bible* (1976) reads, "Everyone must obey the state authorities, because no authority exists without God's permission."

The *ERV* reads, "All of you must obey the government rulers. Everyone who rules was given the power to rule by God."

Paul was writing to the saints in Rome (1:7). To understand government, we must begin with the sovereignty of God.

The term "**ordained**" (*tasso*) means "to put in order," or "to arrange," or "to designate." It is God, not man, that established the rules for the civil order. The Ten Commandments was given *by the LORD who brought thee out of Egypt as a means to establish a civil society*. The law was never given as a means of saving the soul, but it was given to establish law and order among men. *God's law is not only good for you and me, it is good for all men and all of man's institutions* (John Rushdoony).

The genitive "**of God**" informs us that God is the Source of rightful authority; that all rightful authority is from Him (Isaiah 33:22).

The second clause reads, ". . . for there is no power **but** of God." The Greek reads, "ouv ga.r e;stin evxousi,a **eiv mh**. u`po. qeou/," or "there is no authority **if not** from God" or "**except** from God."

The "**if not**" (*eiv mh*) is usually translated "except." The term "except" is a good translation of the negative particle, but it literally means "if not." This construction in Greek informs us of an exception to a general rule. It is the same particle used in Romans 13:8.

*Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, **but (except)** to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*

*See verse eight and the **Appendices** on how to translate Romans 13:8.*

The general rule is that there are many powers claiming authority. But, there is only one legitimate authority. The rightful powers that God ordains must be recognized by Christian men. Paul wants us to know that there is *no legitimate authority* except one that is ordained of God. To say that Kim Jong-un of North Korea or Pol Pot of Cambodia was ordained by God for the good of the people is nothing but Christian blather.

The government to which Christians are commanded to submit is one that seeks to arrange itself under Christ and His laws. That is, Paul is not teaching that every government is ordained of God, BUT that there is no *de jure*⁶ authority unless God ordains it!

All man-made governments organized around humanistic principles are *de facto*⁷ governments lacking God-sanctioned authority.

J.B. Phillips agreed when he translated this verse as follows:

*“Everyone ought to obey civil authorities, for all **legitimate** authority is derived from God’s authority.” (Emphasis mine)*

Adding the adjective *“legitimate”* or *“righteous”* or *“lawful,”* or *“good”* helps clarify what kind of government is ordained of God.

The KJV translators adds the adjective “good” to define what kind of works are being discussed in verse three; that is, *legitimate* “rulers” are not a terror to “good works.”

In order to clarify the kind of authority to which all souls are required to submit, we must add an adjective: “good,” “righteous,” or “legitimate as did J. B. Phillips: “Everyone ought to obey civil authorities, for all *legitimate* authority is derived from God’s authority.”

Paul is not calling men to obey tyrants, thugs, murderers, bullies, dictators, despots, and rogue regimes. These must be resisted through fight or flight, not obeyed. The rulers that God wants every soul to submit are *legitimate authorities* . . . and that, very cautiously.

When tyrant Herod gave the order to have all the babies in Bethlehem slaughtered, Jesus’ parents resisted by fleeing the district. They didn’t hold up a white flag and surrender to the murderous plot of their de facto king just because he wore a crown. When the synagogue leaders at Nazareth plotted to throw Jesus over the cliff, our Lord resisted them by exercising escape and evasion maneuvers to evade the de factor rulers.

God is sovereign and He does ordain evil rulers . . . **not** to be obeyed, but to test man’s willingness to resist evil. God raised up Pharaoh, not that men would honor him, but that mankind might know the power of God to judge this tyrant and to deliver His people out from under his abusive power.

⁶ De jure (Latin): according to rightful entitlement or claim; by right.

⁷ “. . . a person who exercises unlawful authority, or lawful authority in an unlawful manner . . .” (Webster’s American Dictionary of the English Language.

*Exodus 9:16 And in very deed for this cause have I **raised thee up**, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.*

God decrees unrighteous rulers, **not** to be obeyed, but to be resisted. Christians are called to support legitimate rulers and to resist bad rulers and bad laws. Christians must not only reject evil in their personal life, but resist evil at work in and through the institutions of man.

Moreover resisting State policy is not a manifestation of “rebellion or disobedience,” as some have claimed, because seeking to correct confusion or error “is not an act of disobedience,” but an act of obedience to Christ and a purification of His institution of justice on earth.

Likewise, questioning authority is not evil. It is a mark of maturity and good citizenship because it keeps officials honest.

Legonaire Ministries adds some sense to this text when they say,

*We are told to bend over backwards to honor the king or be obedient to the civil magistrates. **That doesn't mean a slavish obedience to the civil magistrates.** There are occasions on which Christians **not only may but must disobey the civil magistrates.** Anytime a civil government **requires a Christian to do what God forbids or forbids them to do what God commands, then the person must disobey.***

But, there is a problem with the above statement in that it narrows the definition of evil to evil magistrates that **require** individual Christians “to do what God forbids or forbids them to do what God commands.” Rulers are renowned for “doing mischief through law” (Psalm 94:20).

What modern democratic government is going to command Christians to commit homosexual acts or for mothers to kill their baby? Rather, democratic institutions do not generally require Christians to do “what God forbids.” Rather, they protect abortionists, Sodomites, lesbians, idolaters, transvestitism, theft through taxation, and then force their values down the throats of our youth through the public fool system.

When government authorities protect criminals and do not punish them, then they are no longer God's servants. Such regimes are not ordained of God. They are beast-like and governed by Satan. When a State gives into evil, shouldn't they feel pressure from Christian men? *When politicians feel the heat, they see the light.*

For example: At the University of Iowa, the administration shut down a Christian group which demanded all members support its statement of faith—a statement of faith that was anti-homosexuality. This anti-faggot policy was strongly resisted by the administration, and the group sued the liberal university (Fox News, January 15, 2015).

The same University shut down this Christian club because its by-laws mandated the leader be a Christian. The University said that the club had no right to insist the Christian club have a Christian leader inferring the club should allow a Muslim or homosexual to be president. This so outraged the Christian community that the university telephone lines were fried by angry callers. Two days later the University was forced to reverse its policies (Fox News, December 12, 2017).

In the 15th and 16th centuries, Christians used Romans 13 to support the divine right of kings⁸ and to press disgruntled citizens into compliance. In modern times, pastors use Romans 13 to support democracies⁹ and to press Christians into compliance with statutes passed by Congress.

All governments are not evil, nor are they *a necessary evil*. Many a man uses his authority in the home to be a blessing to the family; many a church has a great leadership team that uses their authority to strengthen God's flock; and, many boards in corporations make decisions that benefit the stockholders. All government is not a necessary evil.

William Holmes McGuffey informs us that in early America that when settlers established townships, the men of the town organized themselves into a church, and built a building. After building their chapel, they established magistrates from church members, and enacted penal codes in harmony with the Torah / Pentateuch. "God was their King, and they regarded him as truly and literally so . . ." (Revised Electric Fourth Reader)

Many modern pastors use Romans 13:1 to beat Christians into submission to democratic forms of government saying that all Christians have a duty to obey magisterial authorities, but I've never heard a preacher teach his flock that civil rulers have a duty to obey God! Have you?

A God-ordained authority will acknowledge the authority of King Jesus (Acts 17:6-7). If magistrates don't acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as King, how can they be legitimate?

A Christian can support any style of government as long as rulers acknowledge Christ and seek to be compliant with His law-order. Whether we are talking about monarchies or democracies, those that do not acknowledge God's sovereignty have their roots in humanism; and, when they become hostile to His law-order, they join the rebellions of Psalm 2. They must be vigorously resisted and enthusiastically admonished "to kiss the Son" lest He be angry.

Those states that acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ and His law are to be supported howbeit their many flaws. To these, as Legonaire Ministries says, "We are to bend over backwards to be obedient . . ." But, the same cannot be said about atheistic, liberal, humanistic democracies hell bent on overthrowing the Christian faith and adopting the policies of the Whore of Babylon (Revelation 13, 17, 18).

We the People have a right, even a duty, to resist and overthrow a tyrant government (See the Declaration of Independence).

Pastor Erwin Lutzer got it right: "If we say that we will always obey the State, the State becomes our God" (Hitler's Cross).

⁸ **Divine right of kings**, political doctrine in defense of monarchical absolutism, which asserted that kings derived their authority from God and could not therefore be held accountable for their actions by any earthly authority such as a parliament (Encyclopedia Britannica)

⁹ A democracy: two wolves and a lamb taking a vote on what to have for lunch.

"It is ironic that virtues of loyalty, discipline, and self-sacrifice that we value so highly in the individual are the very properties that create destructive organizational engines of war and bind men to malevolent systems of authority "
[Obedience to Authority, 1974, p.188]

When Judah was ruled by the Athaliah, the poisonous viper of the House of Baal, Jehoida the priest organized a military coop "all the people of the land went into the house of Baal, and break it down; his altars and his images brake they in pieces thoroughly, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars" and executed the treacherous queen.

*2 Chronicles 11:20 "And all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was in quiet: and they slew **Athaliah** with the sword beside the king's house."*

Karol Jackowski, a nun, made a list of "Ten Fun Things to Do Before You Die" which included "liberating a country" and to willfully, deliberately "disobey some government law." In her reasoning, she concluded that one can only do what is right when they recognize something wrong and refuse to do it. (Amazon: "Ten Fun Things to Do Before You Die: Karol Jackowski).

"Before you die, give some serious thought to vowing holy disobedience whenever necessary. Discerning and knowing why one would choose to disobey is by far the most serious and mysterious part of listening to the voice of the Gods. It's also a recurring theme throughout the Bible. Biblical stories tell of four extraordinary circumstances that call for divinely inspired disobedience: the situation is unbearable and survival is at stake; the call to disobey promises deliverance; acts of disobedience would relieve oppression; and last but not least, swift, immediate divine intervention is not at all likely. The only divine reasons for disobedience are those that come from God and contain moral imperatives to set yourself and others free... Given the sad shape of authority in this world, it's not a bad practice for everyone to vow before they die."

If you have never deliberately disobeyed a law in the State, then you are not discerning evil in the government or you have not worked through the issue, "Who is your God?"

Finally, the Christian prays, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done." This is not a prayer for the arrival of an alleged millennium, but a prayer that that rulers and magistrates might acknowledge the rule of God and surrender to His authority now. We do not pray for the success of rebellious Congress or that citizens might be subject to their powers.

1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

We pray that Christians might live under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ and not be compromised by an unequal yoke with the idolatrous State so we may carry out our service to the Lord in all godliness and sincerity.

If the Lord's white sheep become dirty grey, the black sheep feel more comfortable (Vance Havner). If a government becomes a black monster, the Lord's white sheep can't live in peace.

"I stand up for what I believe, and for that, some called me a 'rebel.' But, the only people who ever called me a 'rebel' were religious tyrants who tried to control me."

4 ROMANS 13:2

2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Is resistance to an officer of the State always a sin?

Many modern day clergymen have taken this text to mean that anyone who opposes the State opposes God and will be judged by God.

But, the true answer depends on the character of the government and the nature of the laws being enforced.

The word “**power**” is in the singular and references lawful magistrates who exercise the powers of their office justly.

“Government is not reason, it is not eloquence — it is force. Like fire it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master; never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action.”
[generally credited to George Washington]

There are two different Greek words used for “resist” in verse two.

The first word “**resisteth**” (ο` avntitasso,menoj; antitassomenos) is a present, middle participle which means “to set one’s self against” and can be translated, “*causes himself* to take up arms against.” The subject is acting on himself stirring up resistance to a de jure magistrate. It is an old military term meaning “to arrange a battle against.” The text is clearly showing us *a rebel without a just cause*.

The second word “**resisteth the ordinance of God**” (avnqesthko,tej; anthesteken) is the main verb in the sentence (a perfect, active indicative), and it means “to withstand.” It should be translated as one who “has taken his stand against” the ordinance of God.

The word “**ordinance**” (ktisis) means “a creation,” or an “establishment” or an “act of founding.” It is translated “decree” in Acts 7:53 and refers to God’s sovereign act of appointing magistrates. It could also address the institution of a government ordained of God whether it be a monarchy or democracy or aristocracy or republic. It does not refer to man-made laws. God ordains the institution of government. Man sets it up for the purposes for which God ordained it. God ordained the temple, but men built it. God ordained the tabernacle, but men set it up.

Thus, we are talking about police power of duly elected and appointed officers.

By “**whoever**” Paul is describing someone who is internally hostile to a God-ordained government. *To resist a righteous authority is to resist the “decree” of God.* Those who rebel against His authority will receive His judgment.

The text clearly opposes the anarchist who despises all authority. God wants his people to submit to de jure authority. Those who resist God-appointed rulers will incur “judgment” or condemnation—not only from God, but possibly by the magistrates themselves.

The underlying presumption in this text is that Christians want to please God; that those who resist His appointed authorities rebel against Him.

In Romans 13, **Paul is not addressing exceptions to this rule** where God calls men to stand against evil in government. His purpose is not to instruct Christians on how to respond to tyranny; nor is he telling the Romans to be passive, undiscerning sheep under the heavy hand of a Neronic tyrant.

But, we must ask the question and **address the exceptions** because of unbalanced teaching on this passage in our time.

In reference to America, even juridical persons are asking the same question: “Does the government need to have a good reason for restricting your freedom? Most Americans would likely answer yes—“Because government says so” isn’t good enough. But what is a “good reason?” And must the government’s purportedly good reasons be supported with reliable evidence when its actions are challenged in court? Or should the government simply get the benefit of the doubt when it makes factual assertions for which it has no proof?” (Institute for Justice, October 2015).

Question: *Are there any exception to rule of submission to authority?*

The answer is “yes!”

Not all authority is ordained of God. Many are governed by Satan (Revelation 13), which means the Christian must have a limited, cautious allegiance to all humanistic institutions including those in a constitutional republic.

Stanley Milgram (1933-1984) from Harvard in his research on obedience designed a test to see how far people would inflict electric shock on a lab subjects when directed by an authority figure to do so. The results were shocking, no pun intended. Despite being unaware that the unseen people were in fact actors and in no real danger of harm, 65% of participants continued to deliver potentially life-ending jolts of electricity simply because they were ordered to do so — even while hearing screams and pleas to stop. He had this to say about the psychological state of the average American:

"The results, as seen and felt in the laboratory, are to this author disturbing. They raise the possibility that human nature, or -more specifically-the kind of character produced in American society, cannot be counted on to insulate the citizens from brutality and inhumane treatment at the direction of malevolent authority."

Milgram was saying that until we train Americans to question authority and to know when to disobey, we are producing a generation of lemmings not dissimilar to the Nazi empire—an empire where German Christians felt it was their duty to unequivocally obey the State.

Those who successfully disobeyed, labeled "heroes" by Milgram, had "a set of skills for resisting authority figures," (Matthew Hollander, a sociologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison).

See "the Milgram Experiment" in the **Appendices**.

It would be rebellion to resist a God-ordained government that acts righteously, but it is not rebellion to resist bad laws, an abusive police force, or an overreaching democratic State acting outside the restraints of the Constitution.

The lesson is clear: the church has failed to help Christians develop a set of skills to resist aberrant authority figures. People must learn to say, "I do not consent" or they will end up in a firing squad shooting innocent people, figuratively speaking.

The first duty of a man is not to obey but to question authority. The authority to which God calls a believer to submit is one ordered by God---that is, one that acknowledges His supremacy and honors His Law-order; in all other administrations, the Christian must be prepared to resist the evil.

To resist an evil order is to resist Satan and his will for mankind. Those who resist Satan will receive the Lord's reward.

In our age of humanistic States, there are times when disobedience to government is obedience to God and where obedience to God demands disobedience to the State.

Practically, Christians must learn to claim their right to be silent, or to say, "I do not consent" to officers who overreach their authority.

Christians should not be a threat to the State unless the State disobeys God. When the State abandons the rule of law, the Christians should be the State's worst enemy. Notice how murderous, plundering King Ahab called Elijah his enemy:

1 Kings 21:20 Ahab (King) said to Elijah (God's man), "Have you found me, O my enemy?"

Oh, that more Christians were called enemies of the idolatrous State because of their righteous resistance to abuses of power.

Rebellious governments have their definition of treason, but care nothing about treason to God.

Notice how the government now thinks:

"Law enforcement across the country are being educated that informed Americans who know their rights are dangerous and that cops are their enemy.

"Papers, please."

A secret report distributed by the Missouri Information Analysis Center lists Ron Paul supporters, libertarians, people who display bumper stickers, people who own gold, or even people who fly a U.S. flag and equates them with radical race hate groups and terrorists."

*“Alex Jones’ 2001 documentary film 9/11: The Road to Tyranny featured footage from a FEMA symposium given to firefighters and other emergency personnel in Kansas City in which it was stated that the founding fathers, Christians and homeschoolers were terrorists **and should be treated with the utmost suspicion and brutality in times of national emergency.**” (Pacific Free Press: “[Police Taught: Informed Citizen = Terrorist Threat](#)”) (See a portion of this MIAC report in the *Appendices* of this work, “[Police Taught: Informed Citizen = Terrorist Threat](#)”)*

Christians must learn that it is not rebellion against God to resist unconstitutional regimes that view the people as the enemy and who willfully and maliciously abuse the powers of their office.

- When Saul rashly ordered the death of Jonathan (for eating honey) who was the leading soldier that courageously routed the Philistines, officers lower in rank confronted the King and forbid him from executing the death penalty against Jonathan (1 Samuel 14:45).
- Jacob resisted the authority of Laban, his abusive, controlling father-in-law Leban, and left his ranch (Genesis 31).
- In Exodus one, Pharaoh ordered the midwives to abort all Hebrew male newborns. The Hebrew midwives “feared God” and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded (Exodus 1:17). And verse 20 adds, "So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and grew strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families." It seems clear that these women did not see Pharaoh’s command as coming from God; and, thus they were not subject to his authority. They disobeyed king for God's sake, and God was pleased.
- Samson was **the original freedom fighter**, a one-man killing machine, that liberated Israel from the tyranny of the Philistines (Judges 13-15).
- Ehud, the first judge, became a professional assassin to deliver Israel from the gluttonous Moab tyrant who ruled over Israel with oppressive taxation (Judges 3). This was resistance on steroids approved by God. Apparently, there is a time to use the sword to set people free.
- Elijah resisted and confronted the lusty, murderous, fraudulent acts of King Ahab in 1 Kings 21. King Ahab even called the prophet **an enemy of the State**.
- Jeroboam and the northern tribes resisted King Rehoboam’s oppressive taxation program and righteously seceded from his authority in . The people even stoned the tax collector . . . and, this stoning and this revolt was approved of God, “This thing is of me” (1 Kings 12)
- The three Hebrews refused to obey King Nebuchadnezzar’s order to bow down to his icon of power (Daniel 3). Many Jews bowed the knee that day to the king, but the three Hebrews saw in the king’s command a violation of the law prohibiting idolatrous obedience to governing authorities, “You shall not bow down to them or serve them.”

- Jesus resisted synagogue authority and its mob that sought to throw him over a cliff (Luke 4).
- Paul resisted the Damascus authorities fleeing over the city wall to escape their treachery (Acts 9).
- Peter resisted Herod's jail guards and escaped from their clutches in Acts 12.

How can resisting the overreaching United States Gestapo be wrong? Disobedience is the righteous response to abusive, over-taxing authorities. Every magistrate that acts outside God's law or the laws of the state must be cautiously questioned and lawfully resisted.

So understood was this lesson following the Revolutionary War that Thomas Jefferson proposed a symbol on the Great Seal with Moses standing on the shore of the Red Sea extending his rod as the sea raged against Pharaoh and with the words "REBELLION TO TYRANTS IS OBEDIENCE TO GOD" on the outer edge.

If Jesus is Lord and King, it is not possible or even desirable to obey every human authority.

If government is lord in the minds of men, you cannot expect them not to betray you in a political contest.

The sovereignty and authority of God is unlimited and unconfined; civil authority is limited and restricted.

Even God-given civil authority is limited. For example, God delegated authority to husbands to govern their homes, but that authority is limited to his home and his wife. Wives are called to be submissive to their own husbands, and even then, submission is limited to virtuous directives. Just as it would be wrong for one man to tell another man's wife how to run her home, it would be wrong for a government to dictate how individual families should school their children. God commands children to obey their parents but even this command is limited by the phrase, "in the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1).

Institutions may exist within the will of God, but an individual magistrate may exceed the powers of his office. When a civil officer acts outside the parameters of the law, Christians have a right, even a duty, to confront the officer and disobey an order. Silence, conditional acceptance upon proof of authority, saying, "I do not consent," showing disgust, hesitation, or groaning are acceptable forms of resistance. Flight or fight is also an acceptable form of resistance if necessity demands it.

The Founding fathers recognized the right to bear arms, not for duck hunting, but in case the people had to take back the government from tyrants in order to install a new guard that would restore law and order.

See the enlightening true story of how the good men of Athens, Tennessee resisted corruption and restored the rule of law in 1946 with guns blazing: [**The Battle of Athens: Restoring the Rule of Law - YouTube**](#)

Someone, will no doubt, raise the issue, “Aren’t Christians supposed to turn the other cheek.” The context here is minor vendor disagreements, not criminal policies of government. Jesus is not giving a lecture on international law. Rather, he is addressing day-to-day, market place irritations. Christians can absorb minor insults, but they are not called to tolerate criminal acts with criminal intent. Criminal behavior must be confronted with force and all the courage one can muster. [Start here](#)

Our Founding Fathers observed a weakness of man when they said, “all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed” (The Declaration of Independence).

It is rebellion to resist a godly government, but it is not rebellion to resist an ungodly administration that rewrites history to destroy our Christian heritage, that promotes Islam¹⁰, approves the murder of the unborn¹¹, pushes homosexuality on youth¹², levies oppressive taxes¹³, sanctions Christian Chaplains praying in the name of Jesus¹⁴, orders the Ten Commandments to be taken off courtroom walls¹⁵, and that permits the destruction of confederate monuments¹⁶.

We have a parallel passage in 1 Peter 2:13. Peter exhorts believers to submit to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake. When we think of “ordinance” we should not think of statutes and laws. Rather, Peter calls us to remember the institution itself. God ordains the institution of government, and to resist government in favor of anarchy is to resist God. He is not asking us to obey every single statute on the books. We have no duty to obey every law of man any more than Daniel had a duty to obey the royal decree of King Darius forbidding men to pray to any god but the King of Persia.

When men establish a government built on humanistic principles instead of God’s Word, it joins the rebellion in Psalm 2.

¹⁰ “Bend the Knee for Islam: Democrats Push ‘Anti-Islamophobia’ Bill. Republicans Stall It” (Daily Wire, August 7, 2017).

¹¹ Number of Murdered Babies in America: “CDC’s surveillance system compiles information on legal induced *abortions* only. Between 1970 and 2014, CDC reports nearly 44.5 million legal induced *abortions*.”

¹² LGBTQ “School teachers Reveal Plans to Push Homosexuality” (EX News, March 16, 2014).

¹³ “According to a recent survey of nearly 130,000 American consumers, the average American spends \$10,489 each year in federal, state, and local income taxes” (USA Today, October 7, 2017).

¹⁴ Chaplain booted over praying ‘in Jesus’ name’ goes to Supremes (WND) <http://www.wnd.com/2016/06/chaplain-booted-over-praying-in-jesus-name-goes-to-supremes/>

¹⁵ 10 Commandments removed from Okla. Capitol (USA Today, October 6, 2015).

¹⁶ “Destroying Confederate Monuments Hurts Us All—and Accomplishes Nothing,” The National Interest, September 3, 2017.”

When the Founding Fathers built the Constitution on the laws of We the People, they committed an idolatrous act (Exodus 20:1-2). God, not man, is the Source of law (Acts 4:12).

Obedience to humanistic regimes are always cautious and limited. And, sometimes, for conscience sake, they must be resisted.

A “good conscience” is one that has been instructed by the maxims of law, and one that has the knowledge and the skill set to say, “I do not consent.” (See a portion of the Maxim of Law in the **Appendices**).

Paul was not so naïve to think that all acts of those in authority were of God. Didn't he recognize the godlessness of rulers 1 Corinthians 2:8 when he said, "None of the rulers of this age understood the wisdom of God; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory"?

If Paul was teaching absolute obedience to Caesar, why was he beheaded? Paul does not expect Christians to have an unlimited commitment to any pecking order. **This would be idolatrous!** The whole of Scripture does not warrant such an interpretation! Rather, Paul is instructing Christians on how to respond to good rulers with good laws in a God-honoring government.

Nowhere in Scripture does God reward men for being silent, passive, and servile to an abusive magistrate. Abraham lied to Pharaoh about Sarah being his wife because he knew that Pharaoh was a lusty sovereign that abused the powers of his office. There is no rebuke from God for Abraham doing so. You don't owe the truth to a ruler who will abuse the truth. Even our own Constitution supports the God-given right to be silent (*Miranda v. Arizona*)¹⁷.

These matters are further complicated by American, constitutional law. In America, the people are sovereign and its magistrates are public servants with a duty to obey the constitutions under which they operate. In my state, the constitution requires officers to take an oath to support and uphold the Constitution and to post bond as evidence of their sincerity.¹⁸

In doing research in my state, I discovered there is not one executive or judicial officer that has taken an oath to support the constitution and posted a *faithful performance bond* as required by

¹⁷ In 1966, the U.S. Supreme Court decided the historic case of *Miranda v. Arizona*, declaring that whenever a person is taken into police custody, before being questioned he or she must be told of the [Fifth Amendment](#) right not to make any self-incriminating statements. As a result of *Miranda*, anyone in police custody must be told four things before being questioned:

1. You have the right to remain silent.
2. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law.
3. You have the right to an attorney.
4. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed for you.

Read the historic U.S. Supreme Court decision: [Miranda v. Arizona](#).

¹⁸ NM Constitution XX:1; XXII:19; and NMSA 10-2-2 thru 10:2-7.

the State constitution; that is, all officers have failed to perfect their office and are operating *de facto* and not *de jure*. The implication of this are profound because all acts by unbonded employees are null and void *ab initio*.

What is a Christian man to do when the State officers he is supposed to honor do “an end run” around fundamental laws that the People ordained? Should they not be resisted because they have violated their duties to both constitutions? But, resistance is painful because they have the guns and the keys to jail.

In America, citizens have no duty to obey State constitutions. State constitutions are given to government workers to obey. When Congressmen and State bureaucrats do not restrain their activities to comply with their constitutions, they are the ones resisting the ordinance of God.

“[Elected officials lie to their constituents](#), trade political favors for campaign contributions, turn a blind eye to the wishes of the electorate, cheat taxpayers out of hard-earned dollars, favor the corporate elite, entrench the military industrial complex, and spare little thought for the impact their thoughtless actions and hastily passed legislation might have on defenseless citizens.”
[John Whitehead, Huffington Post]

What are Americans supposed to do when a government promotes “same-sex marriage,” Sodomy, transvestitism, radical feminism, pornography, abusive taxation, gun confiscation, barratry, and a radical police State? Surely, God is not requiring men to submit to godlessness.

*“That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That **whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government**, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness” (Declaration of Independence).*

This text encourages obedience to God-given authority and issues a warning against disobedience. Though there are exceptions, Paul does not deal with those issues because the rest of Scriptures provides many examples of honorable revolts against *de facto* authorities. Any forceful confrontation with the State, must be based on principles well established in fundamental law.

“The most dangerous man to any government is the man who is able to think things out for himself, without regard to the prevailing superstitions and taboos. Almost inevitably he comes to the conclusion that the government he lives under is dishonest, insane and intolerable, and so, if he is romantic, he tries to change it. And even if he is not romantic personally he is very apt to spread discontent among those who are.”
[H.L. Mencken, journalist, the sage of Baltimore]

Resistance must be conducted honorably. We are not permitted to do evil to correct evil. Our Lord condemns smashing windows and littering the streets while exercising a protest.

Exodus 23:2 You shall not fall in with the many to do evil, nor shall you bear witness in a lawsuit, siding with the many, so as to pervert justice,

Resistance often has good results.

When officials in care of SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK, Va. (WHSV) sought to raise park fees from \$25.00 to \$70, the people organized a protest under their First Amendment rights. The revolt was so successful, the stunned officials were forced to follow the law of reason instead of the fires of lust (April, 2018). It is a good thing the people didn't consult the pastors for if they had, they might have been advised to submit to the rate hike because to resist authority is to resist the ordinance of God.

5 ROMANS 13:3

3 For good rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

We are dealing with the question, "To whom are Christians to submit?"

The noun "rulers" (αἰρcontej) refers to rulers, chiefs, and governors ordained of God. It would include magistrates, officials, and judges who occupy positions in government. The Spirit is not requiring obedience to every potentate who has ever squatted upon a throne, but to civil officers ruling in the fear of God; i.e. "For good rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil works." (Addition mine).

From the Greek term "**terror**" (phobos) we get the word *phobia*. God-ordained rulers do not create an atmosphere of fear surrounding the ordinary course of life. They act as peacekeepers; bad rulers create a climate of fear so that men are afraid to conduct their regular course of business in the market place.

The adjective "**good**" in front of "rulers" is not part of the text. It is added because sycophant, "goodie-two-shoe" clerics teach parishioners should submit to all rulers, even the bad ones. The adjective "good" was added to clarify what kind of rulers are not a terror to good works. This text is certainly not requiring Christians to submit to abusive magistrates who violate God's law and infringe upon personal rights. Thus, adding the adjective is consistent with the intent of the Spirit.

Not all rulers are good. Cruel dictators like Stalin who murdered up to 60 million¹⁹ of his own 'Christian' citizens are a terror to their country. Furthermore, many officers, congressmen, and politicians are against good works like gospel preaching, Bible reading, Bible studies, and the missionary endeavors of the church. Tyrants don't like being corrected, nor do they appreciate it when citizens remind them of the constitution they are bound to obey.²⁰ Thus, the addition of the descriptive "good" resolves any doubts about what kind of rulers Paul is talking about.

Note the adjective "**good**" in front of "works." Only God has the right to define what is "good" and what is "evil." When men define "good" they come up with same sex marriage, women's rights, abortion, tranny insanity, abusive taxation, and asset forfeiture schemes under color of law.

The "good" in this chapter are ideals that conform to God's law -- not State statutes which may or may not be beneficial for society.

¹⁹ IB Times, May 5, 2013.

²⁰ President George Bush, December 12, 2007: "Stop throwing the *Constitution* in my face," *Bush* screamed back. "It's just a goddamned piece of paper!"

The “**good works**” referred to here are deeds in conformity to the Ten Commandments and not missionary activity. Paul is not discussing Christian ministry but the common law. Good is doing one’s neighbor no harm. It involves protecting life, liberty, and property -- even helping others to prosper in health and wealth.

Note **the term “evil”** (kakos). Paul is not discussing the philosophical principle of evil in this text, but **criminal acts** – the result of violating one of the Ten Commandments or its statutory equivalent. By “evil” works, Paul is addressing violations of the criminal code.

Evil is not “out there” . . . in the environment, it is in men. Evil is the result of breaking God’s law. It is a malevolent act by an evil person that harms others. For this reason, God did not permit Israel to wage war on the environment.

*Deuteronomy 20:19 When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, **thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof** by forcing an axe against them: for thou mayest eat of them, and thou shalt not cut them down (for the tree of the field is man's life) to employ them in the siege:*

Paul is concerned with criminal acts, not aberrant thoughts; criminal behavior, not billions of codes regulating everything from soup to nuts. Government exists to punish evil deeds, not to be thought police; to punish crime, not to enforce its will on the people through codes and regulations. In U.S. law, Congress can spend money for what it deems good for public welfare, but it can’t pass a law forcing that “good” on the public.²¹

Statutory Madness

The text says that government is not a terror to good works . . . but in America, the government has declared war on freedom through regulatory control of just about everything including making it a crime for not boiling your dust rags (California. Linda Gallant, “This Old House”).

It is moonshine on water to think that citizens are required to submit to every statute passed by a State. With so many statutes on the books it is not possible or desirable to do all that the State requires. While **all men** have a duty to avoid crime and to do what is right, **no man** has a duty to embrace all statutory legislation gushing from legislatures drunk with power.

Based on its survey of businessmen, the World Economic Forum ranks the United States 29th for the ease of complying with its regulations, sandwiched between Saudi Arabia and Taiwan. According to Mercatus Centre government agencies issue 15,000 edicts a year. Who can keep up with that? (The Economist, March 2, 2017)

Kristin Tate of capitalism.com says, “Government regulation is excessive, and often such regulations do more harm than good.”

²¹ See Congress’s limitation of power, Article 1, §8. In *South Dakota v. Dole* (1987), the Court ruled that Congress can offer money to the States with “strings attached” to inforce the States to comply with its wishes. But, Congress has no power to pass a law making any State or any Citizen adopt its values or definition of “good.”

Not only does Congress have a habit of proliferating rules, it has a bad habit of not scrubbing out old ones: “Governments of both parties keep adding stacks of rules, few of which are ever rescinded” (The Economist, February 8, 2012).

The presumption that Christians have an unlimited duty to dutifully comply with beaver-like Alphabet Agencies who manufacture regulations by the thousands is neither Scriptural nor reasonable.

If Jesus is Lord, it is not possible or desirable to always obey the regulatory state. Christians have an *unlimited* duty to obey the Lord Jesus Christ, and a *limited* obligation to State regulators.

Several years ago a simple contractor in Los Alamos was cited with being too high on his step ladder by one of the Alphabet Agencies and fined \$35,000. He came to us with this bill for help. We investigated and found out he was not under a contract with that agency, and the agent overstepped his jurisdiction. We helped him compose a simple negative averment, a counterclaim for interference of rights, with a commercial demand for damages for \$250,000 for overreaching his authority. The court dismissed the agent’s claim and disappeared.

Criminal Law v Civil Law

Governments are in place to protect the rights of man and to punish those who harm others or their property – not to regulate everything from smart phones to chili peppers. Governments that seek to control man from cradle to grave are more likely to arouse vices than virtues. Paul refers to authorities charged with the duty to promote peace and to punish crime . . . not deep state bureaucratic pencil pushers. While Congress has no authority to punish common law crimes among the several States, State governments do not need special authority to punish crime. It gains automatic jurisdiction over persons involved in criminal acts.²²

At this point, we must distinguish between criminal law and civil law.

Criminal law *is concerned with the punishment of those who injure others or their property. Criminal law protects **the public** from acts of criminals.*

Civil law has to do with obligations and the disputes that arise between parties in a contract. Civil law contains a *body of rules that identifies **private rights** and remedies; that is, it governs disputes between individuals and obligations that arise from a contract.* Because the States are corporations in contract with the United States, Inc. much of the work of Congress involves managing rules that regulate what corporations can and cannot do. The codes that Congress creates apply to corporations and have nothing to do with individuals in the private sector.

Romans 13 addresses criminal law and not civil law.

²² In America, the citizen must distinguish between criminal law (common law, injury to persons) and civil law (the law of contracts). Government has automatic jurisdiction over criminal acts. The government has no power to enforce civil law or equity unless contract exists between two parties; and, even then it must be the consent of the parties involved.

Paul wants Christians to avoid crime and being punished for it. He is not charging Christians with the duty to obey every frivolous rule, statute, code, and regulation passed by a legislative body for the last one hundred years. Rather, he wants Christians to keep God's law and to avoid the wrath of the State against criminal acts.

When you damage people or their property you have to make them whole.

That "ignorance of law is no excuse" is true in relation to God's law (criminal law), but it is totally false in relation to civil law and all the statutory codes that apply to the complexity of corporations in contract with the State. There are so many statutes in the United States, you can't count them all.²³ Even lawyers and judges don't know all the rules, regulations, and statutes that have been passed by the legislative bodies in this country. In common law, there is only one rule: "do your neighbor no harm." This is the law that is of concern in Romans 13.

"The Internal Revenue Code alone, first codified in 1874, contains more than 3.4 million words and, if printed 60 lines to the page, is more than 7,500 pages long. There are about 20,000 laws just governing the use and ownership of guns. New laws mean new crimes. From the start of 2000 through 2007, Congress had created at least 452 new crimes, so that at that time the total number of Federal crimes exceeded 4,450." Under this kind of legislative tyranny, everyman is made a criminal
[Kowal Communications, Inc.]

Criminal law consists of "thou shall nots" and is obligatory upon every man. **Civil law** is voluntary and obligatory only upon parties involved in private contracts. Criminal law requires no man's consent to be ruled by it, while civil law *requires the consent* of the parties to be governed thereby. Civil authority exists for punishing evildoers-- lawbreakers, murderers, thieves, and liars. It does not exist to control whether a man should or should not sleep with his shoes on (North Dakota).

In listening to some preachers you get the idea that Christians are to punctiliously obey every kludgy regulation passed by legislators who want to recreate the world in their image. Really?

Take a look at the statutes:

- In Georgia it is against the law for a chicken to cross the road.
- In Oregon you can't dry your dishes with a towel.
- In NY, bagels are not taxed . . . unless they are cut or altered.
- In Massachusetts you can't snore with the windows open.
- In Texas there is no tax on a cowboy belt buckle, unless it is oversized.

²³ The King James Bible has 788,280 words. The IRS regulations in 2012 came up with roughly **4 million words**, and this is only one of fifty codes (Tax Foundation, April 15, 2014).

- In some place in Florida, it is against the law to park a pick up truck in the front driveway.
- The Federal Railroad Administration insists that all trains must be painted with an “F” at the front, so you can tell the front (F) from the back.
- In Alaska, it is against the law to push a live moose out of an airplane.
- In Brooklyn New York its illegal for donkeys to sleep in the bathtub.
- In Carrizozo New Mexico it was illegal for a woman to be in public unshaved.
- In North Carolina, it is against the law to sing off key.
- In Colorado there is no tax on a coffee cup, but there is 2.9% tax for the lid.
- In Rhode Island it is against the law to sell toothpaste and a toothbrush to the same customer on a Sunday.
- In Gainesville Georgia you must eat fried chicken with your hands.
- In Indiana you can’t catch a fish with your bare hands.
- In Georgia its illegal for bars to offer 2-for-1 drinks as a means of attracting customers.
- In Billings Montana, it is illegal to own a pet rat.
- In Boulder Colorado it is illegal to taunt a police officer until he tells you to stop.
- In Iowa it is illegal for a man with a mustache to kiss a woman.
- In NY the mayor passed a law making it illegal to serve a two liter coke with a pizza.
- In America Samoa it is illegal to forget your wife’s birthday (to protect the husband’s safety).
- In Missouri it is illegal to drive with an uncaged bear.

All of the above statutes beg to be broken.

Once I was an Administrator of a new private school. Every time we had an incident, the board created a rule outlawing the activity that created the accident. Every time there was an injury on the playground, the board voted to have the equipment removed. Soon, we had no playground equipment for the children to play on. After a couple of years, we had a rule book as large as Webster’s Dictionary. We couldn’t make enough rules to prevent every unforeseen crisis. One day, I had it with the rule book, and as a Principle issued two rules to replace the library of anti-freedom laws that had developed toward the students. Those two rules were: (1) Show respect to your neighbors, and (2) don’t (intentionally or carelessly) injure your neighbor or his property.

All discipline could be administered based on a violation of those two rules whether it be time-outs, detention, or suspension from school. They were easy to learn, easy to follow, and easy to administer correction.

The purpose of courts is not justice, but the punishment of injustice. Consequently, fear (*phobos*) is a proper motive for obeying God-ordained civil authority when it comes to criminal statutes. Except in cases of a Mao Tse Tung or Kim Jong Il, even pagan civil magistrates are usually not a threat to good deeds.

And, **this is the key:** *in as far as States uphold common law believers should honor their civil rulers . . . and that very cautiously.*

Psalm 118:9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

Common law is Biblical law and the law of common sense—law that prohibits injury to one’s neighbor or his property. Common law is opposed to statutory law that regulates corporations in contract with the government. In common law (the law of the people), if there is no injury to person or property, there is no crime. In statutory jurisdiction, the State can fine people for bathing two babies in the same bathtub at the same time (Los Angelos).

The State, therefore, has a God-given duty to punish crime as well as enforcing rules upon parties in contract with the government. For this reason, the informed citizen always operates under the common law, and appeals to common law when an officer of the State overreaches his authority and seeks to compel performance from private citizens. The free man asks, “Was anyone hurt?” and “Do I have a contract with you?” *If no one is injured and no property is damaged, then there is no crime!* If there is no crime, the State has no jurisdiction over the citizen. If there is no contract, the officer cannot lawfully compel performance or site the individual with fine for non-performance of a civil contract. If there is no contract, the State has no jurisdiction over the citizen or his behavior.

Conflicts with the State

As long as the State prosecutes criminals that injure others, Christians can survive even in a humanistic regimes. Conflict arises when the State protects murderers (like abortionists) and punishes decent people who protest baby killing. Conflict arises when statutory law supplants common sense and citizens are dragged into an alien jurisdiction and prosecuted as criminals for violating some man-made code in the absence of injury to person or property (a victimless crime²⁴).

We are living at a time when the government protects abortionists (murderers) and homosexuals, and punishes good men who expose government abuses.

²⁴ *Victimless crimes* are criminal only because politically powerful people or groups find them undesirable or offensive. An example of a victimless crime is smoking marijuana or ordering more than a 16 oz. coke for lunch. These are “crimes” against the fictional State which cannot be injured, cannot testify, or appear in court (Sociology Index).

We have to ask, “What should a Christian do when the government he is the supposed to honor becomes an agent of evil and a violator of the rights of man?”

Certainly, **Christians owe magistrates esteem for their work; but, when they overstep their Divine limits, they forfeit any right to honor.**

Nine weeks pregnant, a troubled (sinful) woman named Tammy Skinner shot herself in the stomach to kill her baby (February 23, 2006). The State of Virginia did not charge her with a crime because of a glitch in some statutory code. She deliberately killed her baby and no indictment was handed down. This kind of injustice cripples confidence in government to rule itself.²⁵

In the UK, the police arrived at a party to find a naked teenage girl surrounded by a half dozen Pakistani men. She told the police she had been raped. The police arrested the girl and charged her with indecency. None of the men were arraigned because the cops didn’t want to be accused of being racists (UK Times).²⁶

While Paul is not dealing with exceptions in his discourse, the whole of Scripture teaches does not support unquestioning obedience to any juridical system. When judges abandon the truth, lower magistrates must confront higher magistrates perpetuating such crimes and atrocities.²⁷ If lower magistrates will not confront higher magistrates, then God’s ministers must intervene and expose their wicked deeds as Elijah did when he confronted King Ahab for murdering Naboth and seizing his family farm (1 Kings 21; 1 Samuel 14:45).

²⁵ Paula Mooney, “Pregnant Woman Who Shot Herself in Stomach and Killed Baby is Acquitted-

²⁶ <https://www.libertariannews.org/2018/03/24/the-times-on-gang-raping-little-girls/>

²⁷ The doctrine of intervention: See 1 Samuel 15.

6 ROMANS 13:4

4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

The text calls magistrates “ministers of God.” But, what is a minister of God and are all civil authorities “ministers of God?”

Paul describes these magistrates with two terms.

First, the term “**minister**” is the Greek word *diakonos* (dia,kono,j). We get the word “*deacon*” or “*servant*” from this word. God-appointed civil authorities are called *deacons of God*; that is, they are servants of truth and justice. Paul is speaking in ideal terms, terms that capture the purpose of government throughout the ages. It would be ludicrous, however, to think that all State officers are “ministers of God.” Some serve lust and power as did the Pharaoh of Israel’s enslavement who taxed Jacob into poverty and slavery.

Second, the word “**revenger**” (e;kdikoj eivj ovrgh.n) describes these magistrates as “ones empowered to inflict wrath;” that is, God commands these ministers to use the sword to punish criminals, “an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth” (A Hebrew idiom for justice).

Doing “**evil**” (kakos) refers to injury and harm to others—a violation of criminal law and not some civil code. Evil is not in the environment, it is in men²⁸. Capital punishment was a means of purging evil from society: “You shall put away evil (by just punishment of the evil man)” (Deuteronomy 17:7). The Hebrew word for “evil” is *ra*. Used 5 times in Deuteronomy 17, it is translated “defect,” “evil,” “wicked thing,” The evil in this chapters includes defective worship (17:1), transgressing the covenant (17:2), engaging in idolatry like cultic worship of the Zodiac (17:3), murder (17:8), presumption and contempt of court (17:12),

By executing violent criminals, Israel preserved God’s law-order preventing revolution, pluralism, and chaos. By exercising the death penalty for capital crimes, the justice system prevented a class of professional delinquents from rising in society.

The “**sword**” is metaphor for weaponry and the power to punish injustice through criminal law. This is a reference to the Roman military that patrolled the Mediterranean during the *Pax Romana*.

“**Afraid**” or “**Fear**” (phobeo) is that unpleasant emotion that stirs within men when they deserve punishment for criminal behavior. Fear of punishment is a deterrent for wrongdoing. The purpose of law is not to save men or society, but to create mass *peccatophobia*, a fear of sinning . . . of doing evil . . . of committing a crime.

²⁸ “If you then who are evil . . .” (Jesus: Matthew 7:11).

In general, the emptyheaded are more apt to be swayed by fear rather than reverence for the Creator. Thus, the creation of fear is the purpose of government.

Innocent men have no fear of a God-ordained rulers, but there is much to fear about rulers who do not worship at the altar of the Christian religion . . . rulers who show contempt for the Bill of Rights.

"I'm not against the police; I'm just afraid of them"
[Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980)]

*There is nothing more terrifying than a cop without a conscience.*²⁹

“For he is the minister of God to thee **for good:**” “Good” must be defined! **Only God has the right to define what is good!**

When humanists define the term “good” they think permissively; that is, they tolerate adultery, infanticide, and legal plunder. If the Bible is not the standard for what is good, then what is? When government defines “good” we end up with life sentences for murderers, asset forfeiture, abortion, and abusive taxation.

It is good when magistrates punish evil doers. When criminals are caught and disciplined, all benefit. Law is designed to chastise injustice rather than promote justice. Justice is achieved only when injustice is punished in society. King David said magistrates must be just ruling in the fear of God (2 Samuel. 23:3). Thus, a minister of God is one who enforces God’s laws?

"If he who breaks the law is not punished, he who obeys it is cheated. This, and this alone, is why lawbreakers ought to be punished: to authenticate as good, and to encourage as useful, law-abiding behavior . . ."
[Thomas Szasz (b. 1920), U.S. psychiatrist. "The Second Sin, Punishment" (1973)]

Government is not a charity. A good government is in place to punish injustice, not to fund scholarships for black, promiscuous, fornicating unwed mothers. It is not good for the church to pick up the sword and administer justice any more than it is good for government to pass the collection plate for philanthropy.

Government serves the will of God when it punishes the wicked and protects the righteous. Our forefathers put it this way in the Declaration:

"To secure these rights (life, liberty, property), governments are instituted among men."

Thus, there are two major injustices in the United States: (1) First, is permissiveness. The U.S. justice system has rebelled against God’s justice system by idolizing life and refusing to exercise the duty of capital punishment; and, (2) Second, is inequity or setting up a system that exempts government officials from penalties for failure to keep their own law.

Capital Punishment

²⁹ A new study shows that about 1,100 *police officers*, or about three per day, are charged with committing *crimes* every year. (Lucas Jackson/Reuters)

Sin is compared to leaven that grows. God ordained the death penalty for certain crimes in order to prevent the growth of professional delinquents.

Capital crimes in the Bible include the following:

Murder: Genesis 9:6; Exodus 21:12-14

Kidnapping: Exodus 21:16; Deuteronomy 24:7

Attacking one's parents to cause them bodily harm: Exodus 21:15.

Cursing one's parents: Exodus 21:17; Leviticus 20:9.

Sacrificing your child to Moloch: Leviticus 20:2.

Willful negligence that results in death

Sorcery (deception): Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 20:27.

Being a medium or spiritist: Leviticus 20:27.

Breaking the Sabbath: Exodus 31:14.

Sacrificing to idol gods: Exodus 22:20; Deuteronomy 13.

Trespassing in God's holy things and places: Exodus 19:12-13; Numbers 1:51; 3:10,38; 18:7.

Blasphemy against God: Leviticus 24:10-16.

False Prophecy: Deuteronomy 18:20.

Criminal Contempt of Court: Deuteronomy 17:8-12

Perjury or being a malicious witness: Deuteronomy 19:16

Sabbath Breaking: Exodus 31:14; 35:2; Numbers 5:32-36

Adultery: Leviticus 20:10,11; Deuteronomy 22:22.

Incest: Leviticus 18:9-17; 20:12, 14)

Rape of a betrothed or married woman: Deuteronomy 22:23-29.

Homosexuality: Leviticus 20:13.

Bestiality: Leviticus 20:15-16.

Prostitution, if a priest's daughter: Leviticus 21:9.

Pretending to be a virgin if you are not: Deuteronomy 22:13-21.

The Problem of Permissiveness

The power to punish wrongdoers is a gift of God that deters crime.

That *capital punishment* doesn't deter lawbreakers is a naked lie. It is *delayed punishment* that spawns moral indifference. When it takes twelve to fifteen years to run through a judicial process before executing a murderer, capital punishment loses its strength as a moral deterrent.

*Ecclesiastes 8:11 Because sentence against an evil work is **not executed speedily**, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.*

"Justice delayed is justice denied" (William Gladstone).

U.S. citizens have grown sappy permissive and is no longer calling for justice.

"Today, our courts are mired in delay, bogged down with tens of thousands of cases. Lawsuits often take years, cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, drain us psychologically and produce outcomes that no one can predict"

[A.V. Curto, Fox News, August 10, 2010]

It didn't use to be this way.

On Feb 15, 1933, lawless Giuseppe Zangara attempted to assassinate President-elect Franklin Roosevelt in Miami. When his arm was accidentally bumped, he killed Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak instead. Five weeks later, on March 20, 1933, Zangara died in the electric chair.

Swift and deadly, but that legal justice system worked (Pat Buchanan: Protect Kids or Confiscate Guns? -- February 22, 2018).

When Nikolas Cruz allegedly killed 17 students at Parkland High School in Florida on February 14, 2018, Democrats accused the NRA of the crime and called for gun confiscation. No one called for justice or for a hangman's noose to be placed on the neck of Cruz. The solution of liberals was to punish all innocent gun owners.

The United States system needs a judicial reformation.

"There is no greater tyranny than that which is perpetrated under the shield of the law and in the name of justice."

[Charles Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*]

"Every society gets the kind of criminal it deserves. What is equally true is that every community gets the kind of law enforcement it insists on."

[Robert Kennedy (1925-68), U.S. Attorney General, Democratic politician. *The Pursuit of Justice*, pt. 3, "Eradicating Free Enterprise in Organized Crime" (1964)]

Law is negative. It prohibits behavior. If it is not forbidden, then one is free to do as he pleases as long as he does not infringe on the rights of others. The purpose of law is not to save men or society, but to purge evil from society.

- Legislators that ban the death penalty or punish victimless crimes with long prison sentences ARE NOT MINISTERS OF GOD!!
- A federal S.W.A.T team armed to the teeth ready to lynch and shoot some poor sap citizen because he resisted a federal tax scheme IS NOT A MINISTER OF GOD!!
- Calling for the confiscation of guns from innocent people after a public shooting instead of the execution of the murderer is not justice, but misdirected anger toward law-abiding gun owners.

It is good when magistrates execute criminals guilty of capital crimes. It is bad when the government protects criminals, exempt themselves from criminal prosecution, or plunder property through taxation, asset forfeiture, and doctrines of eminent domain. It is bad when government is involved in education, charity, and what color a man can paint his bathroom. When so acting, it steps outside its authority.³⁰

³⁰ James Bovard, "Zoning: The New Tyranny," *Freedom Daily*, August 1996.

A State that bans capital punishment in favor of torture serves the Devil.

Modern permissiveness spawns cruelty.

We can see man's inhumanity to man in the Colorado Supermax Prison – a high tech version of hell. Only cruel, wicked judges and legislators choose to punish criminals by placing them in cells 17 stories underground for 30 years so they never see the light of day. Capital punishment seems merciful compared to these caves of torture.³¹

Proverbs 12:10 . . . but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.

Permissiveness and cruelty are sisters of apathy and tyranny. All four siblings are enemies of God.

Psalm 59:13 Destroy them in wrath, destroy them, that they may be no more; That men may know that God rules in Jacob, To the ends of the earth.

Psalm 109:8 Let his days be few; and let another take his office (Example of resistance by prayer).

The Problem of Inequity

No one is above the law, especially the police who seem have the green light to bark out commands, kill, shoot, taser, abuse and steal from Americans for the mere suspicion of committing a crime.

“By shielding police from charges of grave misconduct while prosecuting otherwise law-abiding Americans for the most trivial “offenses,” the government has created a world in which there are two sets of laws: one set for the government and its gun-toting agents, and another set for you and me”

[Zero Hedge, August 9, 2017]

“In the American police state, police have a tendency to shoot first and ask questions later. In fact, police don't usually need much incentive to shoot and kill members of the public.

Police have shot and killed Americans of all ages—many of them unarmed—for [standing a certain way, or moving a certain way, or holding something—anything—that police could misinterpret to be a gun](#), or igniting some trigger-centric fear in a police officer's mind that has nothing to do with an actual threat to their safety.

In recent years, Americans have been killed by police merely for [standing in a “shooting stance,” holding a cell phone](#), behaving oddly and [holding a baseball bat](#), [opening the front door](#), [running in an aggressive manner](#) holding a tree branch, [crawling around naked](#), [hunching over](#) in a defensive posture, [wearing dark pants](#) and a basketball jersey, [driving while deaf](#), being [homeless](#), [brandishing a shoehorn](#), holding a [garden hose](#), and [peeing outdoors](#)”

[John Whitehead, “If Police Don't Have to Protect the Public, What Good Are They? “ 2-27-2018]

³¹ ADX Florence. The **United States Penitentiary, Administrative** Maximum Facility (ADX) is an American federal supermax prison for male inmates located in Fremont County, Colorado. It is unofficially known as ADX Florence, Florence ADMAX, or the "Alcatraz of the Rockies." (Wiki).

There is a double standard – one law for the bad guys which include every poor sap citizen, and another law for the good guys – the superior elite and those that work for the government.

Failing to indict a cop who commits a crime sends the message that those in power are above the law.

*When the government fears the people, there is liberty. When the people fear the government, there is tyranny.
[Thomas Paine (1737-1809)]*

What is a Christian man supposed to do when the scales are not even? Government officials claim police officers are “here to protect and serve,” but what they really mean is that they are here to “protect and serve the police force.”

In America, police have no jurisdiction over people unless a crime is being committed. The whole idea that this passage implies Christians must obey cops just because they exist is nothing but cow slaver from the milking barn.

Unfortunately, the criminals don’t wear a sign that says, “buy guy.” No doubt, police have a difficult job catching criminals without trampling on the rights of man. They deserve our prayers and our support when possible. Likewise, they must be careful not to overstep their authority.

In conclusion, government is in place to protect the rights of man. It is the duty of magistrates to punish crime, and to execute justice upon evil doers. When crime is swiftly punished, justice prevails and peace reigns. When magistrates punish criminals, they perform as ministers of God. When governments exempt their own, they cease to be a servant of God.

Fear of violating the law is a healthy by-product of a dutiful justice system. Everyone ought to be afraid of injuring their neighbor or damaging their property. But, the modern tragedy is that men fear being pulled over, beaten, tasered, arrested, cuffed, and charged for not obeying a man they have never met, who looks like a gang member dressed in black, who happens to have a gun, and is barking out orders they don’t understand. Surely, the apostle is not calling for Christians to support “blue lives matter,” and the expansion of power to search, strip, seize, raid, steal from, arrest and jail Americans for any infraction their creepy minds can devise.

The man who lives under the authority of Christ and His law is a threat to no man, but the men in blue who are being trained to believe everyone must obey them are a threat to all men.

7 ROMANS 13:5

5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

The term “**must needs**” (avna,gkh) is a Greek noun implying *constraint, compulsion, or necessity*. God’s law compels obedience. It is one’s Christian duty to be subject to God-ordained authorities who enforce God’s laws; and, to be subject to civil magistrates who carry out the legitimate purposes of government.

Paul gives **two reasons** to submit to the general order.

First, a person must submit out of fear of punishment. The term “wrath” describes the purpose of government which is to inflict pain and punishment upon evildoers.³² Law, when properly applied, purges evil from society howbeit through fines, whippings, restitution, or the death penalty. Law improperly applied results in fines, Billy-club beatings, taserings, grand slams on cement, arrests, cuffings, and a lengthy time in the city jail.

“Government is not reason, it is not eloquence — it is force. Like fire it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master; never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action”
[credited to George Washington]

Second, a person should submit to civil authority for the sake of one’s conscience (suneidesis). The conscience is that part of the soul which is aware of good and evil. It literally means “with” “knowledge.” A conscience educated by God’s law acts like a spiritual fire alarm that buzzes when there is smoke in the house. If one breaks the law, a properly trained conscience sounds its alarm. When one is in compliance with law, the conscience remains silent.

The Bible mentions five kinds consciences: There is a **weak conscience**³³ (1 Corinthians 8:7), an **evil conscience**³⁴ (Hebrews 10:22), a **seared conscience**³⁵ (1 Timothy 4:2), a **defiled conscience**³⁶ (1 Timothy 1:5), and a **good conscience**³⁷ (1 Timothy 1:5). A good conscience is one that is educated by God’s law, works properly, and is at rest.

³² Justice is a system that punishes evil doers for crimes committed. In America, the tendency is to punish the innocent and to take away the rights of honest citizens by making citizens pay for teen pregnancies, abortion, prisons, or by taking away freedoms to travel or to purchase “guns” or move about freely.

³³ A weak conscience is one that sounds an alarm over peccadillos and trivia.

³⁴ An evil conscience is one that feels bad for doing something good; and doesn’t feel bad for doing evil.

³⁵ A seared conscience is one that has no feeling one way or the other over certain acts of wrong doing.

³⁶ A defiled conscience is one that is clouded or worn out from alerting the person about sins in their life.

³⁷ A good conscience has knowledge about right and wrong, is quiet in the course of human interaction, and sounds an alarm when doing evil becomes an option.

God approves of submission to the State for the sake of the conscience; that is, it is a duty laid upon men by God to submit to good rulers and to make the job of the public employee easier. God also approves of submitting to civil authorities out of fear of being punished for breaking the common law or fear of unjust punishment by an abusive police state. Fear is the reason pagans submit to law.

But, does this mean the Christian must obey every want, whim, and wish of government officials? Let's put in another way: Can the State demand anything it wants from its citizens, and must citizens be totally subservient to every bellicose order by a donut-filled cop with only a high school education and every IRS agent eager to shackle the U.S. taxpayer to a life of indentured servitude?

Surely, God is not requiring Christians to be namby-pamby sycophants to State bullies. God forbid! Christians are called to be the *salt of the earth* and not bowls of sugar and mush.

The First Commandment requires allegiance to the LORD God and His law-order. Gods are the source of law for any nation, and the Source of law for Christians is the LORD God (Exodus 20:1-3). All law reflects His character.

Psalm 119:142 Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true.

ESV Psalm 119:137 Righteous are you, O LORD, and right are your rules.

The State competes with God for allegiance and affections of the people, and it often seeks to be a god over the people. Thus, the first duty of man requires him to question authority, not to obey authority.

“But are people actually more likely to drop religion in places where governments provide more services and stability? In a new paper, psychology researchers crunched the numbers — and found that better government services were in fact linked to lower levels of strong religious beliefs”

[Miami Herald, “Government vs. God? People are less religious when government is bigger, research says” April 18, 2018]

Paul could not possibly be implying that Christians must always obey the State especially when lawmakers live in Utopia near Lake Looney. This interpretation would not only play right into the hands of tyrants, it flies in the face of the whole of Scripture and the duty of Christians to always obey the Lord.

See “Ten Rules Regulating Authority” in the **Appendices**.

Questions

Though Paul does not address this issue, we must ask, “What should Christians do when civil authority that is supposed to punish evil actually protects the wicked and punishes the righteous?”

Are Christians required to obey government officials that overreach their authority, act presumptuously, and transgress God-given authority?

What are Christians to do when the government they are supposed to honor protects abortionists, finances the murder of the unborn, and promotes tranny insanity in public schools and the military?

What are men supposed to do when the government decides it wants 30%, 40%, even 50% of a man's income leaving the working man with pennies to provide for his family and his future? Didn't Pharaoh place task masters (tax collectors) over Israel and reduce them to absolute poverty?

Are Christians required to submit to the psychopaths running government that "doeth mischief through law" banning guns, spying on American's private phone conversations, and requiring them to register as a world citizen under the Read ID Act (Psalm 94:20)?

What if Christians have a weak conscience that sounds an alarm over trivia like "don't write below the dotted line"?

Government as a Covenant

In Biblical thinking, civil government is covenantal in nature. The king agreed to keep the law and to rule, and the people agreed to keep the law and support their king. When a monarch obeys God, it is the duty of the people to support the king's law. The people are called the Lord's people and the king is governor of His inheritance. The people, however, must remain the people of God, His property, and His possession.

The king is not the owner of the people but a shepherd of the people. The king agreed to rule faithfully and the people agreed to support the king as long as he lived in submission to the laws nature and nature's God (2 Kings 11:17; 1 Chronicles 11:3; 2 Chronicles 23:2, 3, 16). This was the hard lesson David had to learn after he counted his military out of an act of pride (1 Samuel 24).

Certainly, *Christians owe godly civil magistrates minimal respect; yet when magistrates overstep their Divine authority, they forfeit the right to Christians' obedience.*

In a covenantal government, if the king disobeyed God, the people were no longer under a duty to support the king. (See the Magna Carta)

When the spies searched Jericho, they made a covenant with Rahab. Israel would protect her as long as she stayed in her house. If she broke the covenant and left her house, Israel was no longer under obligation to shield her.

See "Resistance to Tyranny" in the **Appendices**.

In a nation that follows *lex rex*,³⁸ people are not obligated to obey the king if the king does not obey God's law or his own laws. ***When the king becomes a tyrant and breaks covenant, power***

³⁸ *Lex rex* means the law is Law is King! *Rex lex*, means the king is the law. In the 17th century, the Scottish Presbyterian minister Samuel Rutherford (1600?-61) wrote a book titled, *Lex, Rex*. Rutherford brilliantly and comprehensively demolishes the idea that rulers are above the law. Not only must citizens obey God law (and the king's law), the king MUST OBEY GOD'S LAWS and the LAWS OF THE STATE.

reverts back to the people. Timid people may submit out of fear, but not out of conscience. In such cases it was the duty of lower magistrates to confront errant superiors.

It is paramount to understand that when Romans 13 discusses obedience to law, it is not encouraging unquestioning, sycophant docility to every fickle, whimsical, volatile, capricious, arbitrary, overreaching, frivolous ruling by city councils and State legislatures and presidential omniarchs.

Law is about preventing and punishing crime. All of God's law is summarized under the principle, "do no harm." If there is no injured party, there is NO CRIME! If a person injures no one, then they are just men.

The law Christians must obey in Romans 13 are statutes consistent with God's law-order. All other statutes, codes, rules, and regulations passed by legislative bodies should be viewed suspiciously as entrapment schemes for the unwary or as applying specifically to entities like corporations that are in contract with the State.

Israel (Northern Kingdom) was punished, not because they disobeyed their leaders, but because they obeyed their multi-nomian kings!

2 Kings 17:5, 8 "Then the king of Assyria invaded all the land and came to Samaria, and for three years he besieged it . . . because the people walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced.

This means that pastors must teach people right from wrong, not only to obey righteous authority, but how and when to recognize and resist unrighteous rulers wearing a smile in a blue suit. Not only is disobedience to lawful authority a major societal problem, failure to resist unlawful acts of civil magistrates is more problematic. A good conscience will sound its alarm when the person is being too docile in the face of an abusive ruler.

When Rehoboam became strong, he abandoned the Lord. Instead of rebuking their king, the people acceded to his whims and wishes. To resolve the rebellion, God sent Shemaiah the prophet to censor the king and his cabinet. Resistance was needed and when the civil authorities caved to the king, God ordered the office of prophets to intervene (2 Chronicles 12).

The Word of God show us the way through the story of Samuel and Saul (1 Samuel 15). When Saul failed to do his duty regarding the execution of Amalek cities including the slaughter of its herds, he returned saying, "I have obeyed the voice of the Lord." When the king was full of deceit, Samuel did not pat him on the back and smile like a teenage dork. Rather, he rebuked the king, charged him with rebellion on the level of witchcraft, then the priest picked up a sword, and plunged it through Agag (1 Samuel 15).

Because pastors are CEOs of 501 c 3 non-prophet organizations, they are unable to perform the duties of a prophet in America toward the three branches of government. Believing that Romans 13 teaches total compliance to the State, modern pastors have surrendered their churches to be ruled by the IRS, the greatest criminal organization on earth.

We are not to fear men in positions of authority that have the power to confiscate our property and to jail our person (Hebrews 10:34). By faith, we surrender to godly magistrates, and BY FAITH we must resist bad laws and overreaching rulers.

When a government breaks God's law and promotes abortion, Sodomy, and legalizes oppressive taxation to demoralize the people, it forfeits its right to honor. When this is the case, it becomes one's duty resist the State for conscience sake . . . even withholding taxes.

"When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty," (Thomas Jefferson).

"The privilege of giving or withholding our moneys is an important barrier against the undue exertion of prerogative which if left altogether without control may be exercised to our great oppression; and all history shows how efficacious its intercession for redress of grievances and reestablishment of rights, and how improvident would be the surrender of so powerful a mediator."

[Thomas Jefferson: Reply to Lord North, 1775. Papers 1:225]

"The purse of the people is the real seat of sensibility. It is to be drawn upon largely, and they will then listen to truths which could not excite them through any other organ."

[Thomas Jefferson to A. H. Rowan, 1798. ME 10:60]

See "Thomas Jefferson on Government and Politics" at Family Guardian - <https://famguardian.org/Subjects/Politics/ThomasJefferson/jeff1330.htm>

8 ROMANS 13:6

6 For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

“You pay” is a present active indicative indicating that the Mediterranean world was under the Roman tax system.

The term “**tribute**” refers to an “annual tax on lands” (A.T. Robertson), and also a mandatory tax on a subjugated people—a poll tax for example. The reason for paying taxes is to support “God’s ministers” (civil servants); that is, taxes that support legitimate government services to the people. In the United States, all “tribute” is mandatory in the sense that all government services are paid for by an “indirect tax:” Sales tax, gasoline tax, sugar tax, cigarette tax, etc.

Governments must be supported, and the way governments support themselves is through a system of taxation. Taxation is a legitimate principle in Scripture. But, tribute carries a connotation of subjugation—a slave-master relationship.

The Spirit calls magistrates “God’s ministers.” This term for “*minister*” (leitourgoi.) in this verse is different from the term “minister” (*diakonos*) in verse four. The Greek word *letourgos* refers to temple servants--those involved in religious duties at the temple (Hebrews 8:2).

In using this term *letourgos*, God not only reminds believers their taxes are used to support God’s magistrates, but ***that God places a religious duty upon magistrates to be His servants and to obey His law.*** Government exists for the worship of God and all civil servants have a duty to glorify Him. When magistrates acknowledge the sovereignty of God and His Law, they glorify the King of the Nations. When government employees become hostile to God’s law-order, they cease to be His ministers! In trespassing God’s law, they join the rebellious rulers in Psalm two that “*take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed.*”

The ongoing rebellion of rulers against God’s law calls for another response than total subservience to total government.

Our forefathers clearly recognized the problem when they said,

*“that mankind **are more disposed to suffer**, while evils are sufferable, **than to right themselves by abolishing the forms** to which they are accustomed”*
[The Declaration of Independence]

“Private fortunes are destroyed by public as well as by private extravagance. And this is the tendency of all human governments.”
[Thomas Jefferson to Samuel Kercheval, 1816. ME 15:40]

While governments have the power to create franchises and to collect fees for government services, governments do not have the authority to dip into the pockets of its people or to seize

private property for the “needs” of the king. The barons in England put a stop to that when they put a sword to the throat of King John and made him sign the Magna Carta.

Tyrannical governments commit more thefts in the name of taxation than any other category of legislation. While a Christian has a duty to pay lawful, legitimate taxes, he also has a duty to resist unlawful, deceptive, and unconstitutional forms of taxation including a public policy that “everyman has to pay taxes.” (See definition of “taxpayer” in **Appendices** or at Family Guardian, “Taxpayer v. Nontaxpayer.”)

And, this is the problem. Americans ignorant of God’s law and statutory law tend to think the government can tax anything it wants and as much as it wants. The maxim that government is limited by the Constitution doesn’t enter the minds of the average voter . . . or the courts for that matter.³⁹

When the Bible says, “Give unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar,” we have to ask, “What belongs to Caesar?” Do you and your land belong to Caesar? The Bible answers the question this way: “the earth belongs to the LORD and the people thereof” (Psalm 24:1); Neither your wife, your house, nor your income belong to Caesar! Just as you have to respect the property rights of your neighbors, Caesar has to respect your private property rights. Ultimately, the people and the land belong to God, not the government.

In Biblical times, there was no tax on land, but there was a tax on the produce of the land. There was no income tax, but there was a poll tax to pay for government services. Taxes on land and income is a modern day device that robs men of wealth and prosperity. Today’s taxation scheme is legal robbery (See “Legal Robbery” in the **Appendices**).

The application of this passage is problematic in that the United States of America was not designed to be a totalitarian dictatorship. For a preacher to say, “You have to pay taxes because Romans 13:6 says so plays right into the hands of tax tyrants.

It appears on the surface U.S. tax statutes are consistent with the Constitution, but because lawmakers use legalese and “words of art” like “person,” “wages,” “income,” “trade or business,” “employee,” “individual,” and “taxpayer,” Congress can easily manipulate the People. The use of slogans like “nothing in this world is certain except death and taxes,” is a nationwide propaganda scheme to create an illusion that that every American is a “taxpayer” under obligation to surrender 30% of his wage earnings to the Treasury of the United States. That “everyone has to pay taxes” is not law. Pastors who are unaware of the fraud become tools of Satan to whip the sheep into compliance with the deception that they have a duty to support the government. To understand how Americans have been duped by their own government, see “The Great IRS Hoax” on Family Guardian.

*“Woe to you lawyers, for you have taken away the key of knowledge”
[Luke 11:45-52]*

³⁹ “The Constitution was written to limit government power, but those limits are meaningless unless judges restrain public officials when they overstep their bounds . . . Fulfilling the Constitution’s promise of liberty requires judicial engagement” (Institute for Justice, October 2015).

To understand the U.S. tax system, one needs to understand one word, the word “duty.” On July 4, 1776 the Declaration of Independence accused England of imposing taxes “without our consent” for quartering large bodies of armed troops among us” and “depriving us in many cases of the benefits of a Trial by Jury.”

When the Founders penned the Constitution, they provided a way to fund the government through “direct” and “indirect” taxes under the rule of apportionment and uniformity. In so doing they limited the powers of Congress; that is, Congress cannot tax everything that moves. **It cannot create a duty** for private citizens to fund the government. It can only place duties on public officials, namely Article II judges, government employees, and Congress itself; that is, the “income tax” only applies to “taxpayers” who are government workers and employees (Dr. Eduardo Rivera).

I discovered that accountants don’t know the law. In asking one accountant how much tax law he studied, he replied that on the first day of class a professor read one paragraph out of section one of Title 26 (3 minutes), and then spent the rest of the course studying charts, course vocabulary, procedures, and mathematical formulas. He didn’t recall studying a single chapter in Title 26 in any of his college courses. But, it is worse than this. Most preachers have never read a single sentence in the Federal Register or the U.S. Tax Code. They just presume Congress can tax anything it wants and that Christians are duty bound to pay what every the IRS advertises.

Americans have no duty to support the government, but they can volunteer to make returns and to pay taxes. Tax officials can lawfully promulgate a presumption that Americans have a duty to support the government; they can ask, beg, and threatened citizens into volunteering, but there is no legal duty to support the government in the Constitution or Federal Statutes unless one is involved in taxable activities like selling firearms and alcohol.

The great question one must ask is, “Who is liable to pay taxes?” The only people with a duty to pay taxes are withholding agents (26 U.S.C. § 1441, 1442), members of Congress of the United States, inferior federal judges, and government employees who are required by Congress to give a kick back to the government for the privilege of employment with the government.

Congress tried to place a tax on income, but a tax on “income” of working Americans was declared unconstitutional in the Pollock Case of 1894. All taxes paid today by Americans are done voluntarily howbeit through deception and manipulation. Because of the separation doctrine, Congress can’t even tax the president! However, modern presidents volunteer to pay income taxes as an example in order to increase revenue in this voluntary revenue scheme. (See the **Pollock Case Summary** in the **Appendices**)

In summary, Romans 13 has been misapplied by modern day preachers who teach unlimited submission to government without balancing the passage with the whole of Scripture.

In the United States, taxes are exactions for the support of government and the people are under no duty to support the government. Taxes must be consensual because taxes are based on the consent of the governed . . . and the governed never gave Congress the power to tax their working income. Congress has power over the states, Article II judges, and government employees, but it has no power over the American people (Dr. Eduardo Rivera).

Furthermore, in their pride, preachers think they know everything about the income system, but don't. And, they use this passage to cajole Christians into paying taxes without understanding anything about the U.S. tax system or about the country's unique constitutional republic. In so doing, they do their flocks a great disservice. Such authoritarianism makes slaves of Christians and destroys freedom.

For more information on the U.S. tax system, see the **Appendices** and **Fanguardian.org**, the most competent site on taxes on the web. All government sites on taxes are self-serving propaganda and not always a true reflection of law or taxation.

9 ROMANS 13:7

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

The verb “render” (*apodidimai*) means “to pay.” The aorist imperative implies one should start immediately to pay all their dues.

The term “dues” refers to paying legitimate fees for government services, and those who charge for their services; that is, don’t be a “humbug” when it comes to paying fees to those who provide services to humanity.

The term “tribute” refers to a tax on subjugated people or taxes for government services.

The term “custom” is a fee-tax placed upon goods and services. It is avertible. One can avoid indirect taxes by avoiding the service. When citizens are engaged in a taxable activity that has a custom duty upon it, the custom must be paid.

The term “honor” means to “give weight.” It places a duty upon Christians to be respectful of civil authority, but not worshipful. While de jure civil servants deserve respect for the positions they hold, it is incumbent upon them to act in ways that deserve respect. Christians, therefore, are called to show minimum deference to civil servants.

However, **this passage needs to be applied very carefully**. Americans are not a subjugated people—at least not supposed to be. Citizens are not required to pay tribute nor did we agree to become debt sureties for the United States, Inc. In America, we do not have a king. The country is not under a monarchy, and slavery was outlawed by the 13th Amendment. The People are considered sovereigns⁴⁰ in the political sense and civil magistrates are considered public servants. (See Sovereignty Education and Defense Ministry (SEDM)).

The term “dues” raises a question: “What is legitimately due to the government in this country?”

⁴⁰ Sovereignty itself is, of course, not subject to law, for it is the author and source of law; but in our system, while sovereign powers are delegated to the agencies of government, sovereignty itself remains with the people, by whom and for whom all government exists and acts. And the law is the definition and limitation of power. It is indeed, quite true, that there must always be lodged somewhere, and in some person or body, the authority of final decision; and in many cases of mere administration the responsibility is purely political, no appeal except to the ultimate tribunal of the public judgment, exercised either in the pressure of opinion or by means of the suffrage. But the fundamental rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, considered as individual possessions, are secured by those maxims of constitutional law which are the monuments showing the victorious progress of the race in securing to men the blessings of civilization under the reign of just and equal laws, so that, in the famous language of the Massachusetts Bill of Rights, the government of the commonwealth "may be a government of laws and not of men." For, the very idea that one man may be compelled to hold his life, or the means of living, or any material right essential to the enjoyment of life, at the mere will of another, seems to be intolerable in any country where freedom prevails, as being the essence of slavery itself. [*Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356, 370 (1886)].

Surely, Paul is not saying Christians should give government everything it wants every time it whines about not having enough money to spend on its imperial ambitions. The government has perfected the art of playing the underpaid victim that never has enough money to balance its budget. Americans were not born debt sureties to pay for the government's lusts . . . and Congress has no authority to place duties on citizens within the States.

Ron Paul observed, "The Founding Fathers never intended a nation where citizens would pay nearly half of everything they earn to the government." (Quoted by The Angry Politician)

We get taxed on how much we earn, taxed on what we eat, taxed on what we drink, taxed on what we drive, taxed on where we go, taxed on what we buy, and taxed how much is left when we die.

Everywhere we go, every day of the week, every time we make a purchase, we are being deceived, swindled, pirated, plundered, cheated, conned, robbed, raided, defrauded, and fleeced by elected officials of the police state out to make a profit at worker's expense.

The difficulty with discussing the American tax system is working through all the presumptions that people hold dear. Opinions are like noses, everyone has one . . . and no one likes to admit they are wrong or that they have been deceived.

To understand the U.S. tax system, one needs to understand the following facts:

1. There is only one reason and one fact that must be learned to understand the principle of taxation and that is the word "duty." Do Americans have a duty to pay the income tax? The answer is "NO!" Americans have no duty to support the government because the Constitution provides no power to Congress to place a tax on the incomes of the people, but the government can tax U.S. citizens. (See **THE ANNOTATED 16th AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION** on Family Guardian, <https://famguardian.org/Subjects/Taxes/16thAmend.htm>)
2. America fought a war with England for "imposing taxes without our consent."
3. All taxation must be by the consent of the governed. WE THE PEOPLE never gave the federal government the power to tax our incomes.
4. After the Revolutionary War, the People created a Constitution, not for the People, but for the federal government—a government of limited powers. Congress was given 18 powers and none of them include authority to place a direct tax on the wages of the People. The only people who have a duty to give a kick back to the federal government are government employees.
5. In America, the People do not have a national government over the People. The United States is a federal government for the States. That we have a government "of the people, by the

people, and for the people” is a self-serving myth initiated by Lincoln. The Constitution provides a government of states, for the states, and by the states.⁴¹

6. Because the federal government is limited by the Constitution, it is not possible for the federal government to have legislative power over the property of the People in the states.

The federal government is not an example of a free society. In a free society, duties are self-imposed by the People themselves. The federal government was established to create a more perfect union of States with compulsory duties on the States, not to subject people to another government. The Constitution places a duty on the federal government, but places no duty on the People to the Constitution or to the federal government -- or state governments for that matter. But, the People do have a duty to God and to their neighbors (Romans 13:8).

7. The Constitution provided funding for the government through **direct** taxes by apportionment and **indirect** taxes through the principle of uniformity. It gave no power to the federal government to place a tax on the income of the people. Congress tried to place a direct tax on the incomes of the rich but this scheme was declared unconstitutional in 1894 (Pollock Case).
8. Congress has no authority to place a direct tax on the incomes of individual Americans. But, the federal government does how power to place an income tax on themselves: congressmen, article II judges, and government employees. Thus, the income tax only applies to taxpayers which are “officers” and “employees” of the United States, Inc. Americans are born free men, not “taxpayers!”
9. The government can ask or trick you into volunteering to pay an income tax, but the average American has no duty to fill out a voluntary return or to pay an income tax that is imposed on government workers. In a free society, people rule themselves, and there can be no legal duty to support the government by a mandatory, direct tax on income (Hale v. Henkle).
10. The only duty Americans have to government is to “alter or abolish” a destructive, abusive system and replace it with one that serves the people (Declaration of Independence).

For a complete understanding of the tax laws and the deception pandered by the cunning, see “The Great IRS Hoax” on SEDM / FAMILY GUARDIAN.

If Americans are in debt to pay taxes, then they are no longer free. They are slaves of an American police state. And, slavery is forbidden in the Constitution (Amendment thirteen). And, this is the country’s greatest contradiction. Americans are told every day that they are free men, yet in reality, they are shackled with enormous tax burdens due to constant propaganda with the help of the media. To sing about being free while bound in juridical fetters shows how duped Americans have become by government presumptions.

⁴¹ John Wycliffe said, “The Bible is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people” (John Rushdoony, Institutes of Biblical Law, Chapter One)

The path to freedom begins with knowing who you are and exercising the duty to challenge presumptive authority.

The taxation power of the State is limited by the Constitution. Congress cannot tax anything it wants or even as much as it wants. When working men are forced by the bayonet to surrender a portion of their income to the State and pay rent (property tax) on the land on which they erect a shelter from the wind and rain, they are no longer free men. They are tax slaves. See the article “Legal Reality” in the **Appendices** and “Path to Freedom” on **SEDM**.

The Commandment, “Thou shall not steal” and “thou shall not defraud your neighbor of his property” not only applies to individuals **but to the lusty, bloated State**. Like highwayman, the IRS barks out commands, “Your money or your life!” Men in high places are very skilled at developing extortion schemes to transfer wealth from your pocket into theirs. See “The Great IRS Hoax” on SEDM / FAMILY GUARDIAN.

It is difficult to understand how a government that taxes its people into poverty through deception in order to redistribute wealth is any different than Captain Blackbeard and Calico Jack on the high seas of commerce.

Private preamble citizens are not within the jurisdiction of the federal government nor are they within its taxing power. A great cloud of deception hangs over this nation regarding taxation. The Christian would do well to carefully study the taxing laws and understand the legalese and entrapment scheme perpetuated by the de facto rulers starting in 1913 and placed on steroids after 1942 through the “Donald Duck Tax” scheme.

We are now paying for police tasers, new cop cars, military Lenco BearCat armored personnel carriers, the sins of black fornicating pregnant mothers, abortions, third-world development, endless wars in the Middle East having nothing to do with our national security, substandard women firefighters, bloated government agencies that multiply regulations to destroy our freedoms, secret CIA operations, clandestine spy activities, illegal aliens on welfare, S.W.A.T helicopters used to scare the hell out of private citizens at 4:00 in the morning, IRS agents that lie, steal, and plunder the assets of the American wage earner, and Harvard trained DOJ officials who attack poor sap citizens who won’t give up their family ranch for a new government land expansion program.

Finally, there is the moral and ethical question: Are Christians required to finance governments when they use tax money to support the murder of the unborn, indoctrinate a nation in Shakti feminism, promote faggotry, and pass out birth control to eleven year old girls?

The answer is found in 2 Chronicles 19:2, “And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD and so bring wrath on yourself from the LORD?" However, saying this is much easier than doing something about it. One could lose all that they have if practically applied. See the article “Legal Reality” in the **Appendices**.

As to taxing power, the Constitution restricts Congress from taxing everything it wants. In order to understand what is taxable and what is not taxable, the citizen should consult the laws of the nation where he resides. In America, the Constitution limits Congress on what it can tax . . . and,

it cannot lawfully tax the “income” earnings from employment unless one works for the government, signs a contract with the State, or is involved in taxable activities. See *Pollock v. Farmers' Loan & Trust Company*, 157 U.S. 429 (1895) which ruled the income tax unconstitutional.

In conclusion, three things are to be rendered to civil authorities: legitimate taxes, fear, and honor. Taxes are needed to support the government. Fear is deserved because government is sheer power. Honor is due because the office of a legitimate magistrate serves in an office appointed by God. It is, however, much easier to pay taxes, to fear authority, and to honor magistrates when government workers obey God’s law and serve within the restraints of the law. Indeed, it is a privilege to pay taxes, to fear magistrates, and to honor public servants that perform their duties as ministers of God. Americans are not required, however, to pay presumptive taxes, to fear tyrants, or to honor disobedient unbonded, public officers.

Government plays a big part in the lives of most Americans. The news uses its platform to shape American opinion and to recruit statisticians. Any application out this section must flow out of diligent study of God’s Word and American law, especially the first Ten Amendments to the Constitution. Ultimately, government is about the duty of self-government. Accept responsibility, and do your own research while remembering that the gospel that turned the world upside down taught another king, King Jesus (Acts 17:6-7).

1 John 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

James 4:12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy . . .

Psalms 119:97 Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

10 ROMANS 13:8

8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

“**Owe no man anything**” is a present, active imperative commanding Christians to be free of debt. It is not God’s will that His creatures be debtors. Here, He commands believers to pay their debts on time and to get out of debt . . . if possible in a debt based economy.

1 Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

This command does not forbid borrowing. Rather, it places a duty on the borrower to make his payments on schedule. Because paying back loans with interest is so difficult, God’s law forbid usury on countrymen (Exodus 22:24-25).

Biblical authors were well aware of the slave-master relationship that debt created.

*Proverbs 22:7 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is **servant** to the **lender**.*

The only debt that is to be left outstanding is the perpetual duty to love one another.

Love is not placed in juxtaposition to law. Law and love fit like hand and glove. The opposite of law is not grace, but lawlessness. The opposite of grace is not law, but permissiveness. The one who keeps the Ten Commandments fulfills the law of love and the one who loves acts consistent with the law. All of God’s commandments can be summed up under three principles: justice and mercy and faithfulness. Furthermore, they can be distilled into one basic principle: *Love does no harm to his neighbor.* (See Micah 6:8; Matthew 23:23; 1 John 5:1-3)

As we have mentioned before, applying this passage in America in modern times is a challenge because of the nature of our bankrupt, debt-based currency system. There is no such thing as a American who is not or was not in debt. Unless you are born with a silver spoon in your mouth, you will be in debt most of your working life paying for school loans, house loans, car loans, etc. The whole tax, money scheme is designed to keep slaves on the plantation as a debt surety for the bankrupt United States, Inc. Despite what idealistic Christian financial gurus teach, it is impossible to tithe, pay the outrageous income tax, property tax, pay utility bills, save money, and buy a house or car without going into debt. Impossible!

Furthermore, there is all the difference in the world between *money of account* and *money of exchange* in the United States with its *fractional reserve system*.

Americans are forced to borrow . . . but, what is being borrowed?

What few Americans understand is that banks do **not** loan money from their own assets when they apply for a loan. The banks create money “out of thin air” when making a loan. “They create new checkbook dollars and add them to a borrower's checking account. Because commercial banks create almost all new dollars, they play a special role in our financial system.”

[*or is that a deceptive role in our financial system*] from "The Story of Banks", Federal Reserve Bank of New York, page 4 (Professor Kamerschen, affidavit).

A book written by the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, "The Federal Reserve, It's Purposes and Functions," states that 98.6% of the total money supply in the United States is comprised of credit money and / or debt instruments."

David Friedman, on page 36 of his book referenced above, adds credibility to the above factual information:

"A bank that makes a loan monetizes a private debt by accepting as an asset the debt obligation of the borrower -- that is, the borrower's promise to repay. The bank simultaneously creates a liability on its books in the form of a demand deposit balance in the amount of the loan."
[*"MONEY AND BANKING," by David H. Friedman, Professor at Princeton, (PhD), Vice-President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and author for the American Bankers Association, Copyright 1985.*]

What real economists know is that banks do not loan money from their own assets. . . . nor can they risk the assets of their depositors. Rather, they create "money of account" based on a promise to pay . . . and, then have the devilish audacity *to charge interest on nothing loaned*. Such a fraudulent scheme by the international banking cartel needs to be exposed as these banking criminals are getting filthy rich by violating the command, "Thou shall not defraud thy neighbor."

The bankers create money of account on the banking ledger and then add them to "borrower's" account creating new money in the system. These tricksters then call it a "loan," charge interest on nothing, and enslave the "borrower" for five, ten, or thirty years. This system is egregiously Satanic and deceptive.

It would be an error for Bible teachers to use this passage to pummel those in debt or to blame them for the debt system created by Congress and the Federal Reserve. The problem of individual finance is more than an inability to balance a checkbook. Congress planned it this way.

Furthermore, the Christian needs to BEWARE of State propaganda and their constant whining about not having enough money and their constant pleading to raise taxes. State CAFR accounts reveal most States have plenty of cash stored up for rainy days. But, who reads CAFR accounts?

Pastors need more education, wisdom, and discernment about what is really happening in our debt-based society. The system is designed to keep people in perpetual debt. Americans are enslaved to the international bankers in a system of "sorcery" (deception) associated with "Mystery Babylon." Thus, a strict budget may not be an adequate solution to one's personal financial challenges (Revelation 18:23). Powerful forces are at work to enslave every country of the world to the Rothschild Banking System.⁴²

⁴² "The first step in having a Central Bank establish in a country is to get them to accept an outrageous loans, which puts the country in debt of the Central Bank and under the control of the Rothschilds" (The Event Chronicle, "Only Three Countries Left Without a ROTHSCHILD Central Bank!", January 30, 2017).

To understand more of this fraudulent system and the debt scheme Americans are trapped into see “Modern Money Mechanics,” “The Creature from Jekyll Island” by Edward Griffin, and the articles in the **Appendices**: “Distinction Between Types of Money,” “The Truth About Money,” and the “Truth about the Federal Reserve.”

In conclusion, Paul’s treatise on God and government was meant to apply to all kinds of political systems throughout the ages: monarchies, dictatorships, republics, and democracies.

This text informs us that it is God’s will for his people to be free of debt – a near impossibility in Western Democracies. Being in debt may not be the fault of individuals as the whole of the American debt-based-tax money system is designed to produce debt-slaves to the United States. God calls Christians to do all they can to escape being a debt-surety to the slave-masters. It takes money, a great paying profession, and genius to live free . . . and, may the Lord help you.

But, no one is free of the debt to love one another. Our Lord proved his love for us in that while we were yet sinners, He died for us. How can we repay Him? We can’t. But, we can live out a life of love in grateful service to His people.

See article on “Good Government,” “Truth About Money,” and “Truth about the Federal Reserve” in the **Appendices**. For a better understanding of the tax system see the “The Great IRS Hoax” at famguardian.org.

11 APPENDICES

11.1 America's Unique Form of Government

If we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, do we need the permission of government to exercise those rights?⁴³ If tyrants are stomping on our rights, do we need their permission to resist them? The differing character of rules requires different responses. That Christians are to tolerate evil and always submit to government is a flawed policy.

*Proverbs 28:28 When the wicked rise to power, people **go into hiding**; but when the wicked perish, the righteous thrive.*

*Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but **when the wicked rule, the people grieve.***

Incredibly, many people think like slaves and don't believe they can do anything without the permission and authority of government.

Most don't even believe you can start a church without applying to the government for its permission to start services. Something is wrong with this picture!

We are not advocating anarchy. We plead for moral responsibility, and resistance to "hemlock justice" (Amos 6:12).

We must keep in mind that there is a dynamic tension between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of men; between one's duty to God and one's duty to his fellow man; between being in the world, and not of the world; between obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ and so called "duties" to State officers; between the sovereignty of God and the "free-will" of man; between being a freedom fighter and a non-threatening citizen. Maturity demands we hold two opposing truths in dynamic tension without letting go of either.

When these kingdoms conflict, Christians must obey the Lord Jesus Christ.

We must keep in mind before we apply this passage that America does not have a monarchy. We the People are politically sovereign with no duty to the United State, and every officer of the State has a sworn duty to support and defend the Constitution.

In LEGAL TENDER CASES, 110 U.S. 421 (1884) (also referred to as Julliard v Greenman), it was stated;

But be as it may, there is no such thing as a power of inherent sovereignty in the government of the United States. It is a government of delegated powers, supreme within its prescribed sphere, but powerless outside of it. In this country, **sovereignty resides in the people**, and congress can exercise no power which they have not, by their constitution, entrusted to it; all else is withheld.

⁴³ Because the modern democratic state sees everyone as a slave "citizen" subject to Congress (14th Amendment), one has to assert his rights on paper in advance of exercising them to overcome the government presumption that we are under the State's authority.

Christians are not subjects of a king nor is the president a sovereign over the citizens of this nation. Americans are not slaves—though many think like vassals.

The president is not the commander and chief of the American people, but the commander and chief of the armed forces of the United States! (Alan Derowitz).

Any legitimate application of this passage must consider our unique form of government. In America, the United States, Inc.⁴⁴ has exclusive jurisdiction only within its territories (Washington D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, etc.). Its territory is not within the states except for enclaves the states have ceded to the federal government. As sovereigns, the federal government does not have the authority over "*we the people*" that it presumes to take with all of the laws passed on the federal level. But, it does have exclusive, despotic control over its territories.

"Constitutional restrictions and limitations were not applicable to the areas of lands, enclaves, territories and possessions over which the Congress had exclusive legislative authority." Downes v. Bidwell, 182 U.S. 244

Americans are not under Roman law—law that empowers government to do whatever it wants. We live in a constitutional republic, howbeit, shackled by statutory regulations and governed by psychopaths⁴⁵, seemingly without a conscience, and hungry for power.

Franklin D. Roosevelt stated October 28, 1936, regarding America's founding:

"Rulers ... increase their power over the common men. The seamen they sent to find gold found instead the way of escape for the common man from those rulers ...

*What they found over the Western horizon was not the silk and jewels of Cathay but MANKIND'S SECOND CHANCE – a chance to create a new world after he had almost spoiled an old one"
[The Educated American, "Sovereignty Resides in the People," 09-07-2017]*

Any commentary on this passage should deal with the social and political issues of our time and the unique, limited, constitutional government we have in America, and deal with the corruption that exists in the system. If there is a problem with modern commentators it is that they do the jitterbug in the pulpit taking no risk while skirting every political issue facing Christians in country where bureaucrats are overreaching and State officers act in rebellion against federal and state constitutions.

If Jesus Christ is Lord, it is not possible or desirable to always obey the State.

11.2 Romans 13 and American Law

⁴⁴ See U.S.C. 28 3002 (15) where it is stated unequivocally that the UNITED STATES is a corporation.

⁴⁵ "[Politicians are more likely than people in the general population to be sociopaths](#). I think you would find no expert in the field of sociopathy/psychopathy/antisocial personality disorder who would dispute this. That a small minority of human beings literally have no conscience was and is a bitter pill for our society to swallow — but it does explain a great many things, shamelessly deceitful political behavior being one."—Dr. Martha Stout, clinical psychologist and former instructor at Harvard Medical School (John Whitehead, Huffington Post).

Romans 13 has been misapplied by modern day preachers to teach unlimited submission to government without balancing the passage with the whole of Scripture.

Furthermore, preachers use this passage to cajole Christians into paying taxes without understanding anything about the American tax system or about America's unique constitutional form of government.

To demand unlimited obedience to civil authority ignores much of American history and jurisprudence.

In America, the courts have ruled that the people are sovereign (legally in the political sense) and public officials are servants of the people. In our country THE PEOPLE are kings. There is no inherent sovereignty in our government. See *Lansing v. Smith*, 1929 4 Wend. 9, 20; *Hancock v. Terry Elkhorn Miing Co., Inc.*, Ky., 503 S.W. 2d 710. [Spiritually, however, only God is sovereign-Ps. 103:19]

"The people of this State, as the successors of its former sovereign, are entitled to all the rights which formerly belonged to the King by his prerogative. Through the medium of their Legislature they may exercise all the powers which previous to the Revolution could have been exercised either by the King alone, or by him in conjunction with his Parliament; subject only to those restrictions which have been imposed by the Constitution of this State or of the U.S."
[*Lansing v. Smith*, 21 D. 89., 4 Wendel 9 (1829) (New York)]

A sovereign is only answerable to God and conscience. In America, government officials are answerable to WE THE PEOPLE (First Amendment).

People are supreme, not the state. [Waring vs. the Mayor of Savannah, 60 Georgiaat 93]; The state cannot diminish rights of the people. [Hertado v. California, 100 U.S. 516]; Preamble to the US and NY Constitutions – We the people ... do ordain and establish this Constitution...; ...at the Revolution, the sovereignty devolved on the people; and they are truly the sovereigns of the country, but they are sovereigns without subjects...with none to govern but themselves... [CHISHOLM v. GEORGIA (US) 2 Dall 419, 454, 1 L Ed 440, 455, 2 DALL (1793) pp471-472]: The people of this State, as the successors of its former sovereign, are entitled to all the rights which formerly belonged to the King by his prerogative. [Lansing v. Smith, 4 Wend. 9 (N.Y.) (1829), 21 Am. Dec. 89 10C Const. Law Sec. 298; 18 C Em.Dom. Sec. 3, 228; 37 C Nav.Wat. Sec. 219; Nuls Sec. 167; 48 C Wharves Sec. 3, 7].

However, the government has been chiseling away at human rights seeking to control more and more activities of its citizens through licenses, social security programs, health care, and other programs. Contract law controls those who participate in the benefits of programs.

[Note on individual sovereignty. Sovereignty is a wonderful ideal, but most American are not individually sovereign. Those with a social security number or driver's license or tons of debt are not sovereign. Sovereign have the legal competence and resources to live independent of government programs. The government propensity to tax people into poverty and to trap people in public benefits works to undermine any concept of individual sovereignty.]

The federal government is a union of the states and has no provision for a relationship with the people. It is a government of the States, for the States, and by the States, and not a government of the people, for the people, and by the people. Congress regulates the states and

those corporations in contract with the federal government. It has no authority to create duties for the people.

The union is a union of States united by the Constitution of the United States. Both State and federal governments are limited by their constitutions; that is, they cannot assume powers not granted to them by the People. While the people have no duty to support the government, government employees are bound to support and uphold the Constitution. For this reason, the people demand elected or appointed officer take an oath before assuming the duties of their office.

Neither the federal government or State governments have the power to create duties for citizens. Congress only has authority over itself, its employees, and those in contract with them. They do not have authority over citizens and their property. The people belong to God and are ultimately accountable to Him.

The government does not have rights! It has powers. Nineteen powers were granted to the federal government by the States, Article I. These powers do not include authority to make laws that govern the individual affairs of people in the States. These grants of power are listed in Article 1 of the Constitution, and powers not delegated are reserved for the people (See the 9th and 10th Amendment.)

The Constitution is for employees of federal government and not the people. Federal employees have a duty to make sure they limit their activities within the restraints of the Constitution. The people have no duty to the Constitution or to the government. The federal government can tax its own employees, but it has no power to tax the private citizens directly.

America is a constitutional republic, not a democracy.

America was designed to be a republic, not a *democracy* [rule by majority vote] nor a *dulocracy* [usurpation of authority by a servant]. The American Pledge of Allegiance says, "I pledge allegiance to the republic . . ." It does not say, "I pledge allegiance to democracy!"

"Republicanism: The republican is the only form of government which is not eternally at open or secret war with the rights of mankind."
[Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), U.S. president. Letter, 11 March 1790]

A democracy empowers the majority to rule over the minority, but a republic protects the rights of individuals who may choose not to follow the will of the majority. As long as an individual does not injure people or infringe on their rights, he can go about his own business in his own way. A democracy provides no protection for the individuals against the crushing will of the majority, but in a republic the majority are limited by the law and cannot force their will on individuals.

Thus, for pastors to conclude individual Christians have a duty to follow the policies of the government which reflect the will of a majority exposes gross ignorance of the American system of government. Individuals can lawfully resist majority rule and be right with God and man.

While the majority may wish to control the minority, the majority is limited by law. Government workers can work, but they have no authority over private citizens. None, zero, zilch! They can ask, beg, and even demand, but the individual has no duty to comply.

In American, the first duty of the citizen is not to obey authority, but to “question all authority.” In the seventies, there was a bumper sticker that stated “Question Authority.” It reflected the truth that every generation must revisit the foundation of authority in society. Not all authority is legitimate, and not all exercising power do so with legal authority. Not all that is labeled wrong is wrong, and not all that is called a right is a right. This “question authority” movement prevailed and the mandatory draft was forced to be eliminated. The government has no authority to force any man to go to war on foreign fields.

America does not have a king. The President is not a monarch with alleged “divine right of kings.” Governments have no rights. The People are not subjects of the government. Elected officials are nothing more than highly paid public servants.

“Under our system the people, who are there {in England} are called subjects are here the sovereign . . . Their rights, whether collective or individual, are not bound to give way to a sentiment of loyalty to the person of a monarch”
[United States v. Lee, 106 U.S. {Supreme Court} 196, at 208]

“For in a Republic, who is ‘the country?’ Is it the Government, which is for the moment in the saddle? Why, the Government is merely a servant - merely a temporary servant; it cannot be its prerogative to determine what is right and what is wrong and decide who is a patriot and who isn't. Its function is to obey orders, not originate them.”
[Mark Twain]

DERSHOWITZ: “Well, the Supreme Court of the United States just last year reminded the president that he is not commander in chief of the United States. He's commander in chief of the armed forces. That the United States civilian citizens are not under his control as commander in chief”.
[Aired December 19, 2005 - 19:00 ET Wolf Blitzer (Journalist) and Alan Dershowitz (Harvard Law Professor) <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0512/19/sitroom.03.html>]

“If you ask an American, who is his master? He will tell you he has none, nor any governor but Jesus Christ.”
[“The Myth of Separation” by David Barton]

“When the {American} Revolution took place, the people of each State became themselves sovereign”
[Pollard v. Hagan, 3 H. 212]

The **polity, or society**, is created by the **social contract**, in which states agree to join together for mutual benefit and defense, and to regulate their behavior to avoid forms of tyranny, which are destructive to the rights of man. Once united, cooperation is not optional. It is mandatory.

Our “social contract” is framed in the U.S. Constitution— a union of states, a constitution that places no duty on the citizen to support the government, and a constitution that severely restricts the activities of the State in relation to preamble citizens.

The people can contract with the State to obtain benefits, but it must be done with the consent of the individual.

However, a valid contract must be presented honestly and agreed to voluntarily, without duress or fraud. In America the social contract does not meet this standard because the state will initiate the use of force against anyone who does not voluntarily enter into the social contract. The state is also not automatically dissolved when it fails to uphold its obligations under the social contract, so the presentation that America is a compact between the United States and the People is dishonest if it even occurs at all. Therefore, the social contract cannot be considered a legitimate contract between the federal government and individual Americans.

What bound Israel together was their Source of law in the LORD God (Exodus 20:1-3); likewise, law is what unites a nation . . . and what destroys a nation. [Because there is only One Lawgiver, any form of government that basis its law in the will of the People, makes itself and enemy of God. Thus, this is the great flaw of the U.S. Constitution.]

Isaiah 10:1 Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees, and the writers who keep writing oppression,

Exodus 20:1-3 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me [that is, no laws before mine].

We are a nation of written laws. If a “law” is not written, it is not law! Political phrases like “everyone must pay taxes” or “you have to say the Pledge of Allegiance” is not law. It is hearsay at best and propaganda at worse.

Laws in America apply to those in contract with the government, and do not generally apply to individual citizens. Most of what people think is the law is really a presumption and has no basis in fact. Therefore, it is our duty to question authority, not to buckle to authoritarian officials.

Unless a citizen has contract with the State or another individual, the only law the people are required to obey is God’s law which can be summed up in “do your neighbor no harm.”

The Constitution mentions three types of laws: *common law* (Mosaic Law; no injury, no crime), *Equity* (the law of contracts and compelled performance), *Admiralty* or *Maritime law* which applies to international contracts. The only Christians should be concerned with is the common law and doing one’s neighbor no harm, and keeping one’s contractual obligations.

The State abuses its power when its officers perform under color of law, color of authority, and color of process.

The challenge comes when the government makes a presumption that you have agreed to be ruled by their statutes. In such case, the remedy is to challenge the State to produce the contract obligating you to some type of performance. For example: wearing a seat belt is a good idea, but if you are cited for not wearing the strap, then your remedy is to demand the State produce the contract to prove that you consented to obey their rules. No contract; no duty!

Caramel Christians have been trained to pay the fee and never challenge the jurisdiction of the court which not only weakens the church but all of society.

Public policy is not law. Political correctness is not law. A statute that violates one of the Ten Commandments or "natural law" is not law. Law is discovered, not made. Moreover, because there is one Lawgiver, Congress cannot create "law." Rather, it creates statutes, rules, and regulations. What we call "lawyers" are not "lawyers." They are "statutors."

However, Article II Courts, since 1938, due to Roosevelt's bankruptcy in 1933, appear to be enforcing public policy and not public law.

The highest law in the State is the Constitution. The Constitution is "supreme law of the land." Any law (statute) passed by Congress or a State legislature that is contrary to the Constitution is null and void. **But, legislators need constant reminding that the conscience and the perfect Law of God is higher than our flawed Constitution.**

U.S. Constitution, Article VI, Clause 2: This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Any law repugnant to the Constitution is void. Thus, the courts, as well as other departments, are bound by that instrument (Marbury v. Madison).

*"It is never to be forgotten that in the construction of the language of the Constitution, we are to place ourselves as nearly as possible in the condition of the men who framed that instrument."
[Ex Parte Bain. 12 U.S. 1 7 S. Ct. 781]*

An unconstitutional statute is not a law, no matter how vigorously it may be enforced. Enforcement does not make what is enforced the law. What is enforced is a *regime*.

*"When human laws contradict or discountenance the means, which are necessary to preserve the essential rights of any society, they defeat the proper end of all laws, and so become null and void."
[Alexander Hamilton, 23 Feb. 1775]*

*"No legislative act contrary to the Constitution can be valid. To deny this would be to affirm that the deputy (agent) is greater than his principal; that the servant is above the master; that the representatives of the people are superior to the people; that men, acting by virtue of powers may do not only what their powers do not authorize, but what they forbid...[text omitted] It is not otherwise to be supposed that the Constitution could intend to enable the representatives of the people to substitute their will to that of their constituents. It is far more rational to suppose, that the courts were designed to be an intermediate body between the people and the legislature, in order, among other things, to keep the latter within the limits assigned to their authority. The interpretation of the laws is the proper and peculiar province of the courts. A Constitution is, in fact, and must be regarded by judges, as fundamental law. If there should happen to be an irreconcilable variance between the two, the Constitution is to be preferred to the statute."
[Alexander Hamilton (Federalist Paper # 78)]*

The federal government is limited and restricted by the Constitution. It cannot act where there is no delegated power to do so—unless, of course, the people are ignorant of the limitations placed on the State by the Constitution. Government can do anything in an environment of ignorance. The government frequently acts outside its constitutional authority. It does it all the

time. But, that does not make it right. It just makes it powerful. And, when this flaw becomes fact, people of faith must fight back. *Servitude to tyranny is service to the Devil.*

*The convention of a number of the States having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best insure the beneficent ends of its institution
[Preamble to the Bill of Rights]*

Thus, the knowledgeable citizen can use the Constitution to retrain ultra vires acts of overreaching government agents.

Americans have rights; government employees have duties. Americans have authority from God to exercise those rights; government officials have the power of guns to deny those rights and to enforce the will of the State on the people.

Rights are not created by constitutional governments. Americans have rights antecedent to the creation of the Constitution. Our rights are not grants from State. They are gifts from God. And when you understand this you will understand and respect the driving force behind the American legacy of limited government. These rights are “unalienable” and cannot taken away by legislative acts without the consent of the People.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

In theory, Congress cannot pass rules that restrict the rights of private people take away their liberties, or regulate their personal life—unless of course, the people fail to restrain government agents by binding it down by the chains of the Constitution.

*“The two enemies of the people are criminals and government, so let us tie the second down with the chains of the Constitution so the second will not become the legalized version of the first.”
[Thomas Jefferson]*

Congress does not have unrestricted, exclusive legislative jurisdiction over any of the 50 sovereign States. It is bound by the chains of the Constitution. The States created the federal government, not the other way around. Congress can **only** pass laws that regulate the federal government, federal employees, and its territories.

This territorial jurisdiction is called “the federal zone.” The federal zone, or federal “United States**”, is the area of land over which the Congress exercises an unrestricted, exclusive

legislative jurisdiction. The Federal Zone is Washington D.C., government bureaucracy, Guam, the Virgin Islands, military forts, and Puerto Rico respectively. The Bill of Rights do not apply in the Federal Zone.

Failure to understand Congress' limited authority over the People and its unlimited authority to regulate government has been the product of more than a little evil.

Clause 17: To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;

In 1818, the Supreme Court stated that:

*"The **exclusive jurisdiction which the United States have in forts and dock-yards ceded to them**, is derived from the express assent of the States by whom the cessions are made. It could be derived in no other manner; because without it, the authority of the State would be supreme and exclusive therein," 3 Wheat., at 350, 351."*

[U.S. v. Bevens, [16 U.S. 336](#) (1818), reaff. 19 U.S.C.A., section 1401(h).]

There is a hierarchy of law: The Word of God, the Constitution, the Statutes at Large, U.S. Titles, U.S. Supreme Court Decisions, Lower Court decisions. Government publications are not law and cannot be relied upon in court to sustain a position! Only Congress and State legislatures can make law (statues and codes) and that only in their own jurisdiction.

While the hierarchy of law is true from a Christian view point, it is not a political reality. Judicially, the Framers declared the Constitution to be "the supreme law of the land" for the government and anything contrary, not WITHSTANDING; i.e. anything contrary to the Constitution is "null and void" to the United States government including the Word of God.

In America, there are many jurisdictions including but not limited to common law, state law, federal law, admiralty law, commercial law, law of equity, county law, statutory law and the like.

"But the subpoena is in form an official command, and even though improvidently issued it has some coercive tendency, either because of ignorance of their rights on the part of those whom it purports to command or their natural respect for what appears to be an official command, or because of their reluctance to test the subpoena's validity by litigation." [Cudahy Packing Co., Ltd. v. Holland, 315 U. S. 357, 363-364.](#)"

[U.S. v. Minker, 350 US. 179, at 187]

IRS publications are not law! "IRS Publications, issued by the National Office, explain the law in plain language for taxpayers and their advisors... While a good source of general information, publications should not be cited to sustain a position:

*"IRS Publications, issued by the National Office, explain the law in plain language for taxpayers and their advisors... While a good source of general information, publications should **not be cited to sustain a position.**"*

[Internal Revenue Manual (I.R.M.), Section 4.10.7.2.8 (05-14-1999)]

In America, laws can only apply to those who reside within a designated jurisdiction or for those who enter a jurisdiction via a voluntary contract. The laws of every other State are foreign with respect to the one State you now inhabit. Thus, if you live in California, the laws of Maine, Florida, and Oregon are foreign to your home State's own laws. Once you understand this relative distinction, you only need to take one more leap, and you will become a budding expert in federal law. Here it is: the laws of the District of Columbia are also foreign with respect to the local, domestic laws of California, Maine, Florida, Oregon, and every other State in the Union. (Paul Andrew Mitchell, B.A., M.S., Counselor at Law, Private Attorney General).

In America, government is supported by two types of taxes, direct taxes and indirect taxes. These taxes are governed by the **rule of apportionment** and the **rule of uniformity**.

Direct taxes must be "apportioned among the several States [not individual people] which may be included within this Union". [See U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 2, Clause 3 and Article 1, Section 9, Clause 4.]

*"All duties, imposts and excises [indirect taxes], shall be uniform throughout the United States".
[See U. S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.]*

In America, ***we practice the rule of law, not the rule of men***; i.e., government officials are not exempt from law. Rulers in a constitutional republic must obey the written law and acknowledge its restrictions and limitations on government.

*Unlike political parties, the Communist Party **acknowledges no constitutional or statutory limitations upon its conduct or upon that of its members**. The Communist Party is relatively small numerically, and gives scant indication of capacity ever to attain its ends by lawful political means. The peril inherent in its operation arises not from its numbers, but **from its failure to acknowledge any limitation** as to the nature of its activities, and its dedication to the proposition that **the present constitutional Government of the United States ultimately must be brought to ruin** by any available means, including resort to force and violence
[Definition of Communism, Title 50, Section 841]*

Unless challenged, the political reality is that the m elite seek to rule men **by law** and exempt themselves from their own laws. For this reason, the Christian man must have the courage to expose this aberration and to resist the tyranny of the majority. *Servitude to tyranny is service to the Devil.*

In America, State governments are but trustees of the public trust. The states formed the federal government and made the federal government subject to the states, not the states to the federal governments. But, incorporation fever struck the original order circa 1868 creating a trend wherein the federal government rules over the states.

In America, **the average Citizen has no duty to the government** because the government is not greater than the citizen.

*"The individual [and, or church] may stand upon his constitutional rights as a citizen. He is entitled to carry on his private business in his own way. His power to contract is unlimited. **He owes no duty to the State** or to his neighbors to divulge his business, or to open his doors to investigation, so far as it may tend to criminate him. **He owes no such duty to the State, since he receives nothing therefrom**, beyond the protection of his life and property. **His rights are such as***

existed by the law of the land long antecedent to the organization of the State, and can only be taken from him by due process of law, and in accordance with the Constitution"
[Hale v. Henkle, 201 U.S. 43 (1906). (Emphasis mine)]

In America, Congress cannot pass a law regulating religion or the church or the individual's right to believe and practice his religion (First Amendment). Congress cannot pass a law requiring churches to register with the government, or a law that requires churches to pay taxes, or a law that restricts churches involvement in the political process. **BUT**, Congress can regulate those churches that give up their Biblical authority, that give up their Constitutional rights, and agree to become government regulated none-prophet organizations.

Law is a study of definitions. To understand law, the student must wrestle with the meaning of words, legalese, and deception created by the use of words to control society. Terms like "taxpayer," "person," "employee," "business," "situs," "U.S. citizen," and "individual" are terms of art that are easily misinterpreted by the layman.

Moreover, **redefining words does not change the law.** Abraham Lincoln asked, "If we call a dog's tail a leg, how many legs would a dog have?" Lincoln answered: Four. Sophistry does not change the facts.

In conclusion, it is the general duty of Christians to obey their rulers. However, the unbalanced teaching that unconditional obedience is the will of God at all times for all believers in all political systems fails to take into account America's unique form of government, the limitations placed on government per the U.S. Constitution, and the limited nature of the authority of U.S. government; that is, unless one is involved in a contract with the United States, Inc., no citizen is obligated to do anything Congress legislates. If you accept a government franchise, then you are obligated to follow every statute that regulates that benefit.

Unless there is a court order, the citizen can ignore any administrative summons issued by an agency of the federal government.

For preachers to teach people they must unconditionally obey their government (the Feds) not only flies in the face of the whole of God's Word, it is unsupported by our unique Constitutional Republic.

Resistance to tyranny is service to God; and, servitude to tyranny is service to the Devil.

11.3 Eleven Rules Regulating Authority

To obey the law, we must know the rules of law. To resist magistrates, we must recognize tyranny and the ultra vires acts of officials.

Rule One: There is only One Lawgiver and that is the Lord God! Congress and State legislatures **are not** lawgivers or lawmakers! They are code makers.

Isaiah 33:22 For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us.

*James 4:12 There is **one** lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest?*

god's are the source of law. To understand a society's god, look at its source of law. In America, the Founders placed the source of law in the People – an act of idolatry.

Rule Two: Legitimate authority acknowledges God's law-order. The purpose of law is not to regenerate men or society, but to restrain evil and to purge evil men from society so that the people live in safety.

Evil is not in the environment. It is in men. Men are not born good; they are born sinners. Some are restrained; others are intemperate. To cleanse society of criminal acts, criminals must be punished.

*Matthew 12:34 O **generation** of vipers, how can **ye, being evil**, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*

Rule Three: God's laws are negative ("thou shall not . . ."); that is, they forbid certain types of acts and human behavior. Therefore, God's laws are limited and confined. If it is not forbidden, it is lawful. Negative law requires men to restrain their lusts and desires; positive law requires people to invest energy to fulfill the command. For example, "Thou shall not steal" requires men to restrain their desire to possess a thing. The command, "honor your father and mother" requires effort, energy, and growth in love.

Thus, where there is no law forbidding an action or punishing the same, man is free to carry out his business in his own way. If it is not forbidden, then man is free to exercise his will. [Note: What man calls "a right" may be "a wrong." There is no women's right to abortion because God forbids murder. There is no right to same-sex marriage because God forbids homosexual acts.]

Rule Four: All law is written. If it is not written, it is not law. For this reason God condemns presumption (Deuteronomy 17:12).

*^{NAB} 1 Samuel 15:23 For a sin like divination is rebellion, and **presumption** is the crime of idolatry. Because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he, too, has rejected you as ruler."*

Government often acts presumptuously hoping the uniformed citizen will do what it wants instead of acting freely.

Rule Five: Law restrains, and a legitimate government restrains itself. God's law grants power to the state to punish injustice and to reward good. It does not grant authority to the State to govern every aspect of a man's life from cradle to grave. And, *justice delayed, is justice denied.*

Rule Six: Congress and State legislatures do not create law. They create statutes, rules, codes, and regulations for government agencies. These rules and codes do not apply to individual citizens; they apply to those in contract with the State -- government employees and corporations. For a Christian to think he has a duty to obey every statute passed by legislators reveals ignorance about law and the Constitution.

Rule Seven: The first duty of a Christian is not to submit to authority, but to question authority. Who are you? By what authority are you ordering me around? What law requires me to do such and such? Responsible citizens see themselves as Question Machine, not an Answering Machine.

Rule Eight: The purpose of government is not to provide benefits and franchises to the people, but to protect God-given rights. It is not in place to create justice, but to punish injustice. It does not operate to create a utopia among men, but to purge evil from society. When government punishes crime, it acts consistent with its God-given purpose; when government provides welfare like a fairy god mother for unwed mothers, it has overstepped its boundaries. When government steps into the arena of charity, it acts outside its jurisdiction.

Rule Nine: Rights do not come from government, they come from God. Every command in the Bible creates a right of man; every prohibition limits the actions of men. The Founding Fathers recognized this principle when they stated:

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men
[Declaration of Independence]*

Rule Ten: Because God's law is limited, government statutes must be limited. It has no authority from God to regulate everything "from soup to nuts." God gave dominion to families, not the government. The earth belongs to God, not the government (Psalm 24:1).

"The best government is that which governs least" (credited to Thomas Jefferson).

In America, the people are under the common law (Biblical law: do your neighbor no harm) and the federal government is under the restraints of the Constitution. Responsible people govern themselves. They do not need a government to tell them what to do or how to live. The government has a duty to govern those under its authority, namely government employees and corporations, but it has NO AUTHORITY to govern the private sector. Private citizens are under the common law (Amendment VII), not the statutes of Congress or even State legislatures.

Rule Eleven: If the government shows up at your door saying, "We are here to help you," say, "I do not consent," and then slam the door.

11.4 The Milgram Experiment

[Saul McLeod](#) published 2007

Courtesy of <https://www.simplypsychology.org/milgram.html>

One of the most famous studies of obedience in psychology was carried out by Stanley Milgram, a psychologist at Yale University. He conducted an experiment focusing on the conflict between obedience to authority and personal conscience.

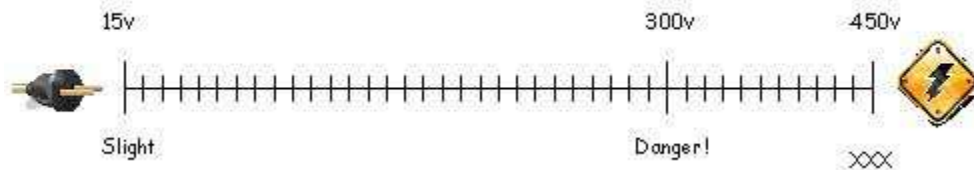
Milgram (1963) examined justifications for acts of genocide offered by those accused at the World War II, Nuremberg War Criminal trials. Their defense often was based on "[obedience](#)" - that they were just following orders from their superiors.

The experiments began in July 1961, a year after the trial of Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem. Milgram devised the experiment to answer the question:

Could it be that Eichmann and his million accomplices in the Holocaust were just following orders? Could we call them all accomplices?" (Milgram, 1974).

Milgram (1963) wanted to investigate whether Germans were particularly obedient to authority figures as this was a common explanation for the Nazi killings in World War II. Milgram selected participants for his experiment by newspaper advertising for male participants to take part in a study of learning at Yale University.

The procedure was that the participant was paired with another person and they drew lots to find out who would be the 'learner' and who would be the 'teacher.' The draw was fixed so that the participant was always the teacher, and the learner was one of Milgram's confederates (pretending to be a real participant).



The learner (a confederate called Mr. Wallace) was taken into a room and had electrodes attached to his arms, and the teacher and researcher went into a room next door that contained an electric shock generator and a row of switches marked from 15 volts (Slight Shock) to 375 volts (Danger: Severe Shock) to 450 volts (XXX).

Milgram's Experiment

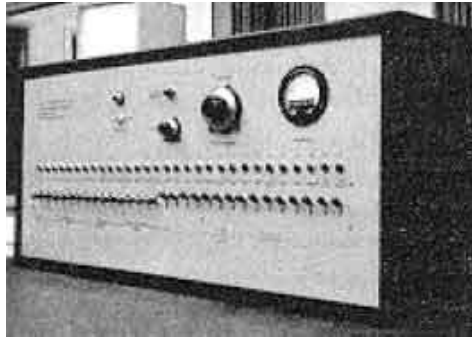
Aim:

Milgram (1963) was interested in researching how far people would go in obeying an instruction if it involved harming another person.

Stanley Milgram was interested in how easily ordinary people could be influenced into committing atrocities, for example, Germans in WWII.

Procedure:

Volunteers were recruited for a lab experiment investigating “learning” (re: ethics: deception). Participants were 40 males, aged between 20 and 50, whose jobs ranged from unskilled to professional, from the New Haven area. They were paid \$4.50 for just turning up.



At the beginning of the experiment, they were introduced to another participant, who was a confederate of the experimenter (Milgram).

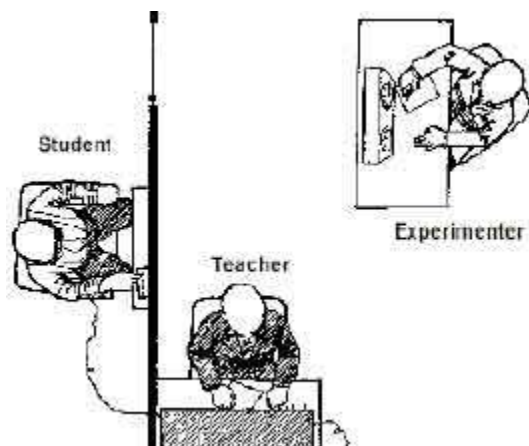
They drew straws to determine their roles – learner or teacher – although this was fixed and the confederate was always the learner. There was also an “experimenter” dressed in a gray lab coat, played by an actor (not Milgram).



Two rooms in the Yale Interaction Laboratory were used - one for the learner (with an electric chair) and another for the teacher and experimenter with an electric shock generator.

The “learner” (Mr. Wallace) was strapped to a chair with electrodes. After he has learned a list of word pairs given him to learn, the “teacher” tests him by naming a word and asking the learner to recall its partner/pair from a list of four possible choices.

The teacher is told to administer an electric shock every time the learner makes a mistake, increasing the level of shock each time. There were 30 switches on the shock generator marked from 15 volts (slight shock) to 450 (danger – severe shock).



The learner gave mainly wrong answers (on purpose), and for each of these, the teacher gave him an electric shock. When the teacher refused to administer a shock, the experimenter was to give a series of orders/prods to ensure they continued.

There were four prods and if one was not obeyed, then the experimenter (Mr. Williams) read out the next prod, and so on.

Prod 1: Please continue.

Prod 2: The experiment requires you to continue.

Prod 3: It is absolutely essential that you continue.

Prod 4: You have no other choice but to continue.

Results:

65% (two-thirds) of participants (i.e., teachers) continued to the highest level of 450 volts. All the participants continued to 300 volts.

Milgram did more than one experiment – he carried out 18 variations of his study. All he did was alter the situation (IV) to see how this affected obedience (DV).

Conclusion:

Ordinary people are likely to follow orders given by an authority figure, even to the extent of killing an innocent human being. Obedience to authority is ingrained in us all from the way we are brought up.

People tend to obey orders from other people if they recognize their authority as morally right and/or legally based. This response to legitimate authority is learned in a variety of situations, for example in the family, school, and workplace.

Milgram summed up in the article “The Perils of Obedience” (Milgram 1974), writing:

‘The legal and philosophic aspects of obedience are of enormous import, but they say very little about how most people behave in concrete situations.

I set up a simple experiment at Yale University to test how much pain an ordinary citizen would inflict on another person simply because he was ordered to by an experimental scientist.

Stark authority was pitted against the subjects’ [participants’] strongest moral imperatives against hurting others, and, with the subjects’ [participants’] ears ringing with the screams of the victims, authority won more often than not.

The extreme willingness of adults to go to almost any lengths on the command of an authority constitutes the chief finding of the study and the fact most urgently demanding explanation.’

11.5 Police Taught: Informed Citizen = Terrorist Threat

Written by Kurt Nimmo

MIAC: Police Trained Nationwide That Informed Americans Are Domestic

<http://www.pacificfreepress.com/2009/03/21/opinion/police-taught-informed-citizen-terrorist-threat.html>



According to the [MIAC website](#), “MIAC is the mechanism to collect incident reports of suspicious activities to be evaluated

and analyzed in an effort to identify potential trends or patterns of terrorist or criminal operations within the state of Missouri.”

The MIAC report specifically describes supporters of presidential candidates Ron Paul, Chuck Baldwin, and Bob Barr as “militia” influenced terrorists and instructs the Missouri police to be on the lookout for supporters displaying bumper stickers and other paraphernalia associated with the Constitutional, Campaign for Liberty, and Libertarian parties.

The MIAC report does not concentrate on Muslim terrorists, but rather on the so-called “militia movement” and conflates it with supporters of Ron Paul, Chuck Baldwin, Bob Barr, the so-called patriot movement and other political activist organizations opposed to the North American Union and the New World Order.

Police are educated in the document that people are anti-abortion, own gold, display an assortment of U.S. flags, or even those that talk about the film *Zeitgeist*, view the police as their “enemy” and conflates them with domestic terrorists like Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, Olympic bomber Eric Rudolph and other domestic militia groups who have been charged with plotting terrorist attacks.

The demonization of militia groups is something that we have come to expect, despite the fact that the very same constitution police officers swear an oath to defend outlines the need for “a well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State”. George Washington himself was a member of a militia.

However, the conflation of banal sectors of society such as people who own gold, fly flags, display bumper stickers or who support mainstream political candidates such as Bob Barr, and the guilt-by-association smear that they are likely to be dangerous and potential terrorists, is a staggering alarm bell which indicates police are being trained that ordinary Americans, not radicalized Mexican race hate groups or Al-Qaeda suicide bomber cells, are the number one domestic threat in the war on terror.

The MIAC report is similar to one created by the Phoenix Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Joint Terrorism Task Force during the Clinton administration (see page one and page two of the document). The FBI document explicitly designates “defenders” of the Constitution as “right-wing extremists.” The MIAC report expands significantly on the earlier document.

Police Trained Nationwide That Informed Americans Are Domestic Terrorists
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Indeed, the MIAC report is just the latest in a series of similar threat assessment documents that list average American citizens as dangerous extremists and potential terrorists.

We discovered that similar propaganda was being disseminated from the very top in September 2006 when it was revealed that the Bush administration had been targeting “conspiracy theorists” as terrorist recruiters.

President Bush himself gave speeches about a White House “strategy paper” that formed “an unclassified version of the strategy we’ve been pursuing since September the 11th, 2001,” that takes into account, “the changing nature of this enemy.”

The document says that terrorism springs from “subcultures of conspiracy and misinformation,” and that “terrorists recruit more effectively from populations whose information about the world is contaminated by falsehoods and corrupted by conspiracy theories. The distortions keep alive grievances and filter out facts that would challenge popular prejudices and self-serving propaganda.”

We have highlighted previous training manuals issued by state and federal government bodies which identify whole swathes of the population as potential terrorists. A Texas Department of Public Safety Criminal Law Enforcement pamphlet gives the public characteristics to identify terrorists that include buying baby formula, beer, wearing Levi jeans, carrying identifying documents like a driver’s license and traveling with women or children.

A Virginia training manual used to help state employees recognize terrorists lists anti-government and property rights activists as terrorists and includes binoculars, video cameras, paper pads and notebooks in a compendium of terrorist tools.

Such training documents are manifesting real-life situations where people are being harassed, assaulted and arrested by law enforcement simply for owning material or discussing topics related to the Constitution and the bill of rights.

Last May, a student of a large bible college in east Texas was accused by federal agents of committing an “act of terror and espionage” after he gave a talk to a group of Boy Scouts in which he encouraged them to educate themselves about the U.S. constitution.

Police Trained Nationwide That Informed Americans Are Domestic Terrorists 310707kuhns

In July 2007, the Kuhns, a North Carolina couple (pictured above) were terrorized by sheriff’s deputy Brian Scarborough, who broke into their house, assaulted them and then arrested the couple for the crime of flying an upside down U.S. flag.

Buncombe County Sheriff’s deputy Brian Scarborough had just returned from Iraq and according to the Deborah Kuhn, was sent by his staff Sergeant from the local National Guard to “deal with” the Kuhns after a local resident complained about the flag, a fact that was later admitted on TV news. A National Guard soldier in military fatigues had also previously visited the Kuhn’s to harass them about the flag.

Even though Kuhn took the flag down, the officer immediately demanded that the couple show their ID’s and when they refused told them to put their hands behind their back and was about to arrest them before the couple shut and locked the door.

Scarborough then proceeded to kick the door in, “And the next thing we know, the glass is flying, he unlocks the deadbolt and he comes into our house after us,” Kuhn told The Alex Jones Show.

The officer then pursued Mark Kuhn through the house before intercepting him in the kitchen and putting him in a choke hold.

The officer then pulled out pepper spray to which Mark Kuhn responded, “Are you going to spray me in my house?” before Scarborough whipped out his billy club and the Kuhn’s ran out of the house into the street, pleading for help from their neighbors.

The couple were handcuffed, arrested and bundled into a squad car, to the protests of numerous neighbors who demanded to know why the Kuhns were being incarcerated, but were told to leave by police.

As is supported by the United States Flag Code as well as a similar incident in 2001, flying the flag upside down is not a mark of disrespect, and in fact is considered by many to be the highest form of patriotism. Despite this fact, the upside down flag is equated in the MIAC report with terrorist paraphernalia.

Alex Jones’ 2001 documentary film 9/11: The Road to Tyranny featured footage from a FEMA symposium given to firefighters and other emergency personnel in Kansas City in which it was stated that the founding fathers, Christians and homeschoolers were terrorists and should be treated with the utmost suspicion and brutality in times of national emergency.

The lecturer identifies George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other founding fathers as “terrorists”.

In 2004, Kelly Rushing was charged with making “terroristic threats” after he handed out Alex Jones videos and recordings of a Congressman Ron Paul speech on C-Span to Lyon County, Kentucky officials and Kentucky State Trooper Lewis Dobbs.

A jury later ruled in favor of Rushing but he continues to be harassed by authorities and local law enforcement.

11.6 Resisting Tyranny

In a nation that follows *lex rex*,⁴⁶ people are not obligated to obey the king if the king does not obey God’s law or his own laws. ***When the king becomes a tyrant and breaks covenant, power reverts back to the people.***

⁴⁶ *Lex rex* means the law is Law is King! *Rex lex*, means the king is the law. In the 17th century, the Scottish Presbyterian minister Samuel Rutherford (1600?–61) wrote a book titled, *Lex, Rex*. Rutherford brilliantly and comprehensively demolishes the idea that rulers are above the law. Not only must citizens obey God law (and the king’s law), the king MUST OBEY GOD’S LAWS and the LAWS OF THE STATE.

It has been said, “ignorance of the law is no excuse.” But, this only applies to God’s moral laws, the Ten Commandments. It does not apply to civil law. No man on earth knows all the laws in all the codes that government produces.

Legislatures have passed millions of civil “laws” (Statutes, codes, and regulations) so that no juridical person knows them all. The multiplication of “laws” is tyrannical because this system manufactures criminals. Many laws make criminals out of every man. Thus, the multiplication of “laws” requires resistance from the courageous.

“America’s underlying regulatory problem long predates the 44th president. Between 1970 and 2008 the number of prescriptive words like “shall” or “must” in the code of federal regulations grew from 403,000 to nearly 963,000, or about 15,000 edicts a year, according to data compiled by the Mercatus Centre, a libertarian-leaning think-tank” (The Economist, “Too Much Federal Regulation,” March 2, 2017).

The Founding Fathers recognized the principle of resisting tyranny when they wrote the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

“That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness”

Many of the Founders wanted to adopt the following maxim as the national motto:

“Resistance to tyranny is service to God.” Thomas Jefferson.

It is wrong to suffer wrongs, and it is wicked to acquiesce to the wicked.

“ . . . all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.”

In 2 Kings 17:6ff, the Lord iterates why Israel was expelled from the land. They were taken to Babylon, **not** because they disobeyed their kings, but **because they obeyed their liberal kings and failed to confront them for their disobedience** to God’s law; that is, they became complicit with evil through the sin of silence.

2 Kings 17:8 and they walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs (statutes) that the kings of Israel had practiced (legislated).

The maxim is Qui tacet consentiret: the maxim of the law is "Silence gives consent."

Silent, compliant Christians who believe it is their duty to honor godless rulers and permissive policies play into the hands of tyrants, and offend the justice of God!!

If a person has a weak, uninstructed conscience, their moral thermometer will rise when they “jay-walk,” don’t have their seat belt fastened, and don’t dot their i’s and t’s on government forms; that is, a person must instruct his conscience with truth . . . not presumption . . . and not government propaganda.

It appears that the goal of American “lawmakers” is to multiply statutes so they can make every man a criminal.

Ayn Rand observed the following:

“Did you really think we want those laws observed?” said Dr. Ferris. “We want them to be broken. You’d better get it straight that it’s not a bunch of boy scouts you’re up against... We’re after power and we mean it... There’s no way to rule innocent men. There’s no way to rule innocent men. The only power any government has is the power to crack down on criminals. Well, when there aren’t enough criminals, one makes them. One declares so many things to be a crime that it becomes impossible for men to live without breaking laws.”

“Who wants a nation of law-abiding citizens? What’s there in that for anyone? But just pass the kind of laws that can neither be observed nor enforced or objectively interpreted – and you create a nation of law-breakers – and then you cash in on guilt. Now that’s the system, Mr. Reardon, that’s the game, and once you understand it, you’ll be much easier to deal with.”

Modern States overreach their authority and criminalize everything. Legislatures are busy manufacturing “victimless crimes” like not wearing a seat belt or parking a car more than 18 inches away from a curb or picking up an arrow’s head at a State park or trying to catch a fish with your bare hands.

Glenn Reynolds asks,

“When lawmakers don’t even know how many laws exist, how can citizens be expected to follow them?” There are so many regulations that “If you walk down the sidewalk, pick up a pretty feather, and take it home, you could be a felon.” Reynolds goes on to say, “Regulatory crimes” of this sort are incredibly numerous and a category that is growing quickly. They are the ones likely to trap unwary individuals into being felons without knowing it. [USA Today, March 29, 2015]

Multiplication of laws are the result of tyranny, and where tyranny exist, resistance becomes duty.

To uncomplicated matters one needs to study the Ten Commandments, and the maxims of law that flow out of the Word of God – laws that the courts are duty bound to follow.

11.7 Maxims of Law

The laws of commerce are expressed in ten maxims, which are the eternal and unchanging principles of the law:

1. A workman is worthy of his hire. Authorities: Exodus 20:15; Lev. 19:13; Matt. 10:10; Luke 10:7; II Tim. 2:6. Legal maxim: "It is against equity for freemen not to have the free disposal of their own property."
2. All are equal under the law (God's Law-Moral and Natural Law). Authorities: Exodus 21:23-25; Lev. 24:17-21; Deut. 1:17, 19:21; Matt. 22:36-40; Luke 10:17; Col. 3:25. Legal maxims: "No one is above the law." and, "Commerce, by the law of nations, ought to be common, and not to be converted into a monopoly for the private gain of a few."
3. In commerce, truth is sovereign. See Exodus 20:16; Psalms 117:2; John 8:32; II Cor. 13:8. Legal maxim: "To lie is to go against the mind." Oriental proverb: "Of all that is good, sublimity is supreme."
4. Truth is expressed in the form of an Affidavit. See Lev. 5:4-5; Lev. 6:3-5; Lev. 19:11-13; Num. 30:2; Matt. 5:33; James 5:12. Legal maxim: none.
5. A matter must be expressed to be resolved. See Heb. 4:16; Phil. 4:5; Eph. 6:19-21. Legal maxim: "He who fails to assert his rights has none."
6. An un rebutted affidavit stands as truth in commerce. See 1 Pet. 1:25; Heb. 6:13- 15. Legal maxim: "He who does not deny, admits."
7. An un rebutted affidavit becomes a judgment in commerce. See Heb. 6:16-17. Any proceeding in court, tribunal, or arbitration forum consists of a contest, or "duel," of commercial affidavits wherein the points remaining un rebutted in the end stand as the truth and the matters to which the judgment of the law is applied.
8. He who leaves the field of battle first (does not respond to Affidavit) loses by default. See Book of Job; Matt 10:22. Legal maxim: "He who does not repel a wrong when he can, occasions it."
9. Sacrifice is the measure of credibility. One who is not damaged, put at risk, or willing to swear an oath on his commercial liability for the truth of his statements and legitimacy of his actions has no basis to assert claims or charges and forfeits all credibility and right to claim authority. See Acts 7, life/death of Stephen. Legal maxim: "He who bears the burden ought also to derive the benefit."
10. A lien or claim, under commercial law, can only be satisfied by one of the following actions. See Gen. 2-3; Matt 4; Revelation. Legal maxim: "If the plaintiff does not prove his case, the defendant is absolved." 10.1. A rebuttal Affidavit of Truth, supported by evidence, point-by-point. 10.2. Payment. 10.3. Agreement. 10.4. Resolution by a jury according to the rules of common law. Because truth is sovereign in commerce and everyone is responsible for pro pagating the truth in all speaking, writing, and actions, all commercial processes function via affidavit certified and sworn on each affiant's commercial liability as "true, correct, and complete," attesting under oath regarding the validity, relevance, and veracity of all matters stated, and likewise demanded. Resolving disputes (law) requires a universally accepted means for someone to assert his subjective truth in a manner that all understand is intended to be uttered without equivocation,

concealment, deception, or insincerity. An affidavit, especially an affidavit "sworn true, correct, and complete," has evolved over time to be the foundation upon which all statutory law is written and the accepted process by which someone expresses his truth in the most solemn, absolute, and ceremonial means possible, past which nothing else exists. An affidavit, as a solemn and sworn statement of truth and fact, automatically renders the affiant the subject of charges of perjury if any portion of his affidavit is proved to be false.

11.8 Romans 13 and Taxes

The Misapplication of Romans 13 to Taxes in America.

Romans 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

[Disclaimer: Because of our present political climate, I guess I had better make a disclaimer. The following is not legal advice, but the result of my research and experience. The following is not facts, but beliefs. The reader is encouraged to do his own research and draw his own conclusions.]

People who struggle with their income tax can be divided into two categories: Men and women.

Around April 15th, preachers across the nation preach from this text exhorting Christians to blindly pay their income tax without ever asking themselves about the nation's tax laws.

By following presumption instead of law, they sin against God.

*1 Samuel 15:23 For a sin like divination is rebellion, and **presumption** is the crime of idolatry. Because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he, too, has rejected you as ruler."*

These "pay-your-tax" preachers assume from talking with their accountant that everyone has to pay the income tax. Hearsay is not evidence! The ignorance among preachers (and accountants) about the nature of our income tax laws is astounding, and this ignorance has served the lust of unscrupulous politicians searching for money and power—money and power not authorized by the nation's constitution—money and power used to undermine Christianity in the United States.

Further, this ignorance has weakened the family and the church. Much to the delight of the IRS, the preachers in this country have unwittingly become government agents participating in the greatest fraud in history by appointing the church secretary to become an uncompensated tax collector for the State. Many Christians are not at all bothered by the fact that the government asks five times more from the Citizen (50% of one's income goes to taxes or interest) than God ever asked from the Israelite.

The government not only considers it itself more important than God by taking nearly 50% of a person's income in assorted taxes, it considers itself a greater priority than God by demanding its "tithes" first.

Furthermore, Christians are so sheepishly trusting of their government that they never ask where is the law that I am required to pay the income tax. They assume our government would never ever deceive anyone about taxes. Yea, right!

Psalm 50:18 When you see a thief, you join with him; you throw in your lot with adulterers

The text says to "render . . . to all their due (what is owed)." The word "tribute" refers to a "tax" or "tribute" paid by conquered nations receiving the "services" of Rome. Usually taxes were a poll or head tax . . . and, everyone paid the same.

The word "custom" refers to fees for services charged. If first century Christians used a government road, they were required to pay the custom tax. If they did not use the road, they had no duty to pay anything.

The word "respect" means "honor;" that is, the apostle required Christians to show minimum respect to civil authorities; that is, to honor the office if not the man. If nothing else, to fear them because of their power. They do, after all, carry the sword.

It is correct to teach that Christian should pay taxes they legitimately owe.

Gary DeMarr notes, "Paul informs citizens that they are to pay taxes due civil authorities (Romans 13:7). Notice that Paul does not say 'what they want.'"

Even Jesus said, "Give unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar."

But, Jesus' statement raises a question: what belongs to Caesar? Everything? The answer is closer to "NOTHING" than something. Caesar doesn't own the earth or you or your family or your income.

You don't own Caesar spit! But, if you have something that belongs to him, give it back to him or pay the fee for using it.

Preachers are famous for ignoring the last part of the verse, "give unto God what belongs to God." And, **even Caesar has a duty to render to God what is God's**; that is, Jesus expected Caesar to obey the laws of the living God and to give Him what governments owe to the Creator of Heaven and Earth. When was the last time you heard a sermon on what Caesar owes to God?

The whole idea that "You didn't build that," or that "Government built everything," is nothing but self-serving, government propaganda. Parties in power want us to think that we can't live without them!

You don't owe government what they want, what they demand, or what they cry and whine about. **In America, government can't tax anything it wants.** It is limited by fundamental law. It can take a bite of the apple, but it can't have all the fruit on the tree. And, it is tyranny to force

a man to pay for what he does not want and cannot afford; that is, any tax that diminishes a man's capital, instead of gains on capital, is robbery plain and simple.

In *Hale v. Henkle*, 201 U.S. 43 (1906) the court said you “owe(s) no such duty to the state, since (you) he receives nothing therefrom.” Further, the revenue laws relate to taxpayers with a duty to pay taxes like a business involved in BATF activities. They do not relate to non-taxpayers, those not engaged in taxable activities, “the latter without their scope,” *Long v. Rasmussen*, (1922).

It is incorrect to teach that a Christian must pay the government what they want. That *everyone must pay taxes* is propaganda spewing from the press, politicians, legislators, and parrots for government indoctrination.

Money is power and there is no politician that is going to tell you the truth that there is no law on the books requiring a private Citizen to pay a portion of his wages to the government. Why would they? Government thrives upon the ignorance of the people.

“Shortly, the public will be unable to reason or think for themselves. They’ll only be able to parrot the information they’ve been given on the previous night’s news.”
[*Zbigniew Brezinski* in 1972]

The word “government” is derived from the Latin verb, “*governo, governare*” meaning “to control,” and the Latin noun, “*mens, mentis*” meaning the mind. Thus, government has perfected the art of controlling the minds of Americans. Yes, you and me!

The term “what is due” in verse seven raises the question, “What taxes are legitimately due in America?” **The only way we know what taxes we legitimately owe is to study the written law.**

All law in the United States must be written. That “everyone has to pay income taxes,” or “to pay their fair share,” or that the only certainty in life is “death and taxes” is not law, but propaganda by guess who?

Income to government is not what the average American thinks income⁴⁷ is.

Citizens can only have a tax liability if they are involved in a taxable activity.

“One thing is clear: The Founding Fathers never intended a nation where citizens would pay nearly half of everything they earn to the government.”
[*Ron Paul*]

Consequently, it is important for preachers to become familiar with the Constitution and the history of our nation’s tax laws.

Unfortunately, what the law says and what the IRS wants you believe appears to be two different realities; that is, there is a difference between the **written law** and **public perception** about what the law says.

⁴⁷ Income may defined as gain derived from capital, from labor, or from both combined, including profit gained through sale or conversion of capital” (corporate language) (*Towne v. Eisner*, 152 U.S. 207).

11.9 Moral Issues Regarding Taxes

There is a **moral issue regarding certain kinds of so-called taxes.**

Quoting Thomas Jefferson:

"To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical."

Here Jefferson speaks to the very heart of the rights and freedom of conscience. That man should be compelled to pay taxes (contributions of money) for the propagation of beliefs he finds abhorrent is a sin as well as tyranny. The failure of King George to acknowledge and abide by this concept was the catalysts of the American Revolution.

Herman Wouk, American author, said, "Income tax returns are the most imaginative fiction being written today."

Lynn Stutter, "News and Views," asks the question, "Should any Christian be required to pay taxes to support the government schools that are based on religions abhorrent to their beliefs? She answers, "No, they should not." "Should any Christian be required to pay taxes to support a government which, in its very practice, violates their religious beliefs? No, they should not."

The average American is so incompetent in interpreting the law the government gets away with grand theft. While Americans are drinking beer and eating potato chips at the ball game, the government is stealing money out of their pockets through a presumptive tax on wages.

11.10 The So Called "Income Tax"

The issue of taxes is hotter than stovepipe on a cold winter day. It is an emotional issue—an issue too hot for Fox News, CBS, ABC or NBC.

Tell people they don't owe the income tax and their hair stands straight up, their eyes turn blood red, their nostrils flare, and fangs begin to show. Christians love their income tax and feel so proud they pay "their fair share." Any statement to the contrary will be met with the right fist of Christian fellowship. Even Jeremiah noted, "my people love it so" (Jeremiah 5:31). Christian may not tithe to the Lord, but come hell or high water, they will tithe to the government what they think it wants.

"The power to tax is the power to destroy," said Chief Justice John Marshall.

If the State has power to tax ministers, then it has the power to destroy the church.

Fortunately, the Constitution limits the taxing power of Congress.

"Anyone may arrange his affairs so that his taxes shall be as low as possible; he is not bound to choose that pattern which best pays the

treasury. There is not even a patriotic duty to increase one's taxes. Over and over again the Courts have said that there is nothing sinister in so arranging affairs as to keep taxes as low as possible. Everyone does it, rich and poor alike and all do right, for nobody owes any public duty to pay more than the law demands"
[Judge Learned Hand]

Tax evasion is a crime, but tax avoidance is a lawful strategy used by many corporations. Amazon, one of the nation's largest corporations has mastered the art of tax avoidance and pays very little in taxation (" . . . Amazon is the master of tax avoidance," <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2018/04/09/trump-is-right-amazon-is-a-master-of-tax-avoidance/33653439/>)

Moreover, Revenue laws relate to taxpayers (government employees) and not non-taxpayers (private citizens), Long v. Rasmussen, D.C. 281 F. 236, 238.

"The taxpayer - that's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't have to take the civil service examination."
[Ronald Reagan tongue in cheek, but true]

Nowhere in the Bible or the Constitution or Title 26 can we find any justification for taxing the labor of a working man in the 50 States of the Union. The private citizen is outside the jurisdiction of the federal government. In this opinion, taxes are for government employees, workers, and corporations, not for private citizens. You will need to do your own research. See the "Great IRS Hoax" as Family Guardian.

In asking the Internal Revenue Service for an answer to "Where is the law that taxes a working man's wage?" you can expect silence or a form letter saying your questions are "frivolous." But, since when is an inquiry into the law frivolous? To tax a man's labor is to tax his property, and a tax on property is a form of slavery. Slavery is forbidden by the 13th Amendment.

Furthermore, the term "*income tax*" is not found in the Constitution nor is the term "income" defined anywhere in the tax code. Yet, many pastors urge parishioners to pay the "income tax" *without ever knowing what it is or the law surrounding the same*. The IRS and its loyal minions are deceiving the American people.

When good men assert this knowledge, the State uses its power to crush, bankrupt, and destroy men in possession of the truth. President Ronald Reagan said about our tax system the following:

"Our federal tax system is, in short, utterly impossible, utterly unjust and completely counter-productive {it} reeks with injustice and is fundamentally unAmerican . . . It has earned a rebellion and it's time we rebelled"
[U.S. Preside Ronald Reagan, May 1983, Williamsburg, V.A.]

"The government has the nerve to tell the people of the country, 'you figure out how much you owe us—and we can't help you because our people don't understand it either—and if you make a mistake, we'll make you pay a penalty for making the mistake'"
[President Reagan, 1984, Associated Press Release, quoted by Curtis & Curtis Law Firm, 1996]

Consequently, one needs to understand that the legal reality regarding the income tax is different from the politically reality of our “voluntary tax system.” To understand America’s tax laws, one will need to consult the U.S. Constitution, the Federal Register, and the United States Code.

11.11 The Legal Reality

Men are endowed with unalienable⁴⁸ rights.⁴⁹

We hold these truths⁵⁰ to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed;” Declaration of Independence.

God,⁵¹ not the government, endows mankind with unalienable rights. These rights cannot be abrogated by a tyrannical majority among the people, or by the actions of the State in any of its branches.

*Things which are not in commerce, as public roads, are in their nature unalienable. Some things are unalienable, in consequence of particular provisions in the law forbidding their sale or transfer, as pensions granted by the government. The natural rights of life and liberty are UNALIENABLE
[Bouvier’s Law Dictionary 1856 Edition]*

The purpose of government is to secure its Citizen’s God-given rights. Rights specifically numerated are “life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness (property⁵²).”

*“WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America”
[Declaration of Independence]*

⁴⁸ Unalienable: “inalienable; incapable of being aliened, that is, sold and transferred” (Black’s Law Dictionary, 6th Edition, p. 1523).

⁴⁹ “You have rights antecedent to all earthly governments; Rights that cannot be repealed or restrained by human laws, Rights derived from the Great Legislator of the Universe” (Quoted from Tony Gutierrez, Empowering the American Citizen, p. 1).

⁵⁰ “You have rights antecedent to all earthly governments; Rights that cannot be repealed or restrained by human laws, Rights derived from the Great Legislator of the Universe” (Quoted from T. Gutierrez, Empowering the American Citizen, p. 1).

⁵¹ The Creator is the one, infinite, personal, triune Spirit who is the God of creation, the God of Israel, the God of the Bible, and the God of the Lord Jesus Christ (Genesis 1:1; 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4-6; Isaiah 40:28; John 1:1, 14; Colossians 1:15, 16; Hebrews 1:1-3).

⁵² “The right of property is the guardian of every other right, and to deprive the people of this, is in fact to deprive them of their property” Arthur Lee of Virginia, 1775 (Quoted by J. Bovard, 1994, p. 9).

There are so many God-given human rights, they could not all be listed. Rights not enumerated are protected by the Bill of Rights, Amendment IX and X.

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

The preamble to the Bill of Rights states the reason for their admission into the Constitution. The first Ten Amendment were put in place to prevent THE ABUSE of power by the federal government and to restrict the greedy, overreaching hand of the government.

*THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, **in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers**, that further declaratory **and restrictive clauses** should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution (Preamble to the Bill of Rights).*

But, the government is not about to give up its billion dollar tax scheme. It permits its employees to misconstrue tax laws, commit erroneous interpretations of statutes, and to arbitrarily and capriciously make demands on innocent citizens under color of law . . . until, the citizen confronts their ultra vires acts, Miller v. Nut Margarine Co., 284 U.S. 498 (1932).

The only way to prevent the overreach of government officers is to confront them with their own laws. Even the government must comply with its statutes, United States v. O'Dell, 160 F.2d 304 (6th Cir. 1947).

Tax laws apply to taxpayers (government workers), not non-taxpayer earning a wage in the private sector,

[Economy Plumbing & Heating Co. Inc. et al 470 F.2d (1972)]

Moreover, it has been chipping away at and whittling at human rights for two hundred years by numerous legal artifices especially turning rights into privileges to be regulated by the federal government.

For example, the Second Amendment says, “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” We have to ask, do any of the 2000 laws passed by Congress regarding guns “infringe” upon the God-given right to bear arms – weapons necessary to keep government officers from stealing our goods and liberty?”

Rights cannot be turned into a privilege.

"A State may not impose a charge for the enjoyment of a right secured by the Federal Constitution,"
[Murdock v. Penns, 319, U.S. 105].

"Where rights secured by the Constitution are involved, there can be no rule making or legislation which would abrogate them."
[Miranda v. Ariz, 384 U.S. 436 at 491(1966)]

"Privileges are special rights, belonging to the individual or class, and not to the mass; properly, an exemption from some general burden, obligation or duty; a right peculiar to some individual or body,"
[Lonas v. State, 50 Tenn. 287, 307].

It is the duty of every Christian man to work and provide for his family; thus, work is a God-given right . . . and a God-given right cannot be taxed (Exodus 20:9; I Timothy 5:8). Work is not a government privilege. It is God-given duty. A man's labor cannot be taxed without making him a slave. Any tax system on the labor of man is ant-God, anti-Bible, and anti-Constitution (See Amendment 13).

Stealing a man's property whether by surreptitious thievery or by the overt power of a tyrannical government is strictly forbidden by the Creator.⁵³ Theft in the name of taxation is nevertheless theft if it touches a man's income.

Chief Justice John Marshall said, "The power to tax is the power to destroy."⁵⁴ Because taxation has the power to destroy an individual by depleting his wealth, the Founders placed strict limits on government and its power to tax.

The powers of Congress to tax are *narrow* and *limited* by virtue of the limiting nature of the Constitution. Congress cannot simply tax everything it wants. Government is not God! The Constitution does **not** grant Congress unlimited authority to tax Americans.⁵⁵

*The Constitution authorizes two types of taxes, **direct taxes**⁵⁶ and **indirect taxes**⁵⁷, and these must be based on the principles of "apportionment" and "uniformity."*

⁵³ Exodus 20:15; Leviticus 19:11; Ephesians 4:28

⁵⁴ McCulloch v. Maryland, 17 U.S. 316, p. 16.

⁵⁵ Because of their fear of the crushing power of corrupt government, the Framers determined to limit government's power to tax its people. They understood that governments had a right to raise revenues through a system of taxation, but instituted principles to limit the government's power to tax its citizens directly, that is, by legislative force. The Fathers intended to "bind the government down with the Chains of the Constitution. Law Professor John Eidsmoe comments, "The founding fathers intended to limit the authority of rulers to the powers delegated in the Constitution" (Professor John Eidsmoe, Christianity and the Constitution, p. 372). Other references (License Tax Cases, 72 U.S. (5 Wall.) 462 (1866); United States v. DeWitt, 76 U.S. (9 Wall.) 41, 45 (1870); Slaughter House Cases, 83 U.S. 36, 63, 64 (1873).

⁵⁶ "Direct taxes bear immediately upon **persons**, upon **possessions** and **enjoyment of rights**. These cannot be placed on individual people. Direct taxes are placed on the States or their corporations. How they raise the money is up to them. Indirect taxes are levied upon the **happening of an event** . . ." (*Knowlton v. Moore*, 178 U.S. 41).

The Court ruled that the *event* and **not** the property that was the subject of the tax. The subject of indirect taxes (duties, imposts, and excises) is never property, but rather *some taxable activity*, [*Flint v. Stone Tracy Co.*, 220 U.S. 107, at 151 (1911)]⁵⁸.

Article 1, Section 2, Clause 3: Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned⁵⁹ among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers

*Article 1, Section 9, Clause 4: **No Capitation**,⁶⁰ or other **direct Tax** shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken.*

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1. The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties⁶¹, Imposts,⁶² and Excises,⁶³ to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform⁶⁴ throughout the United States;

“To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes” [Article I, Section 8, clause 3]. (Emphasis added.)

(Emphasis added.) Indirect taxes are taxes on gasoline, cigarettes, and the sale of products. All have to pay them. Direct taxes became so unpopular, Congress no longer levies taxes upon states.

⁵⁷ “A tax laid upon the **happening of an event** as distinguished from its tangible fruits, in an indirect tax . . .” [Tyler v. U.S., 497 at pg. 502 (1930)]. “A tax levied upon **property** because of its ownership is a **direct tax**, whereas on levied upon property **because of its use** is an excise, duty or impost” (Manufactures’ Trust Co. vs. U.S., 32 F. Supp. 289.”

⁵⁸ “. . . the tax is imposed not upon the franchises of the corporation, irrespective of their use in business, nor upon the property of the corporation, but upon **the doing of corporate or insurance business**,” [Flint v. Stone Tracy Co. 220 U.S. 107]. (Emphasis added.)

⁵⁹ **Apportion:** “To distribute or allocate proportionally” (Webster’s Dictionary).

²⁷The word “no” is a negation that forbids the following action, operation, or performance. **Capitation tax:** “A poll tax. A tax or imposition upon the person. It is a very ancient kind of tribute, and answers to what the Latins called ‘*tributum*,’ by which taxes on persons are distinguished from taxes on merchandise, called ‘*vectigalia*’” (Black’s Law Dictionary, 6th Edition, p. 211).

⁶⁰ **Capitation tax** is an assessment levied by the government upon a person at a fixed rate regardless of property, business, or other circumstances.

⁶¹ **Duties** are sums of money, which must be paid by persons who brings goods of any kind from another country, into the United States. Duties on imports, “This term signifies not merely a duty on the act of importation, but a duty on the thing imported” (Black’s Law Dictionary, 6th Edition, p. 505).

⁶² **Imposts** are sums of money, which must be paid to the Government by persons owning **vessels** which enter the harbors of the United States.

⁶³ **Excises** are sums of money paid to the government by persons who have a liability or privilege associated with manufacturing of designated goods that require the support of government for their production and distribution. “The terms ‘excise tax’ and ‘privilege’ are synonymous” (American Airways v. Wallace, 57 F.2d 877, 880).

⁶⁴ **Uniform:** “always the same; not varying or changing in form, rate, degree, manner, etc.; constant” (Webster’s Dictionary).

Excises are

“taxes laid upon the manufacture, sale or consumption of commodities within a country, upon licenses to pursue certain [regulated] occupations, and upon corporate privileges; the requirement to pay such taxes involves the exercise of privilege . . .”
[*Flint v. Stone Tracy Co.*, 220 U.S. 107, at 151 (1911). (Emphasis added.)]

Since the right to receive income or earnings is a right belonging to every person, this right cannot be taxed as a privilege, [Jack Cole Co. v. MacFarland, 337 S.W. 2d 453, 455-456 (Tenn. 1960)].

Nowhere in the Constitution did the Founders give Congress the authority to tax WE THE PEOPLE or our property or our common law wages or to turn our rights into a privilege.⁶⁵

“Legislature . . . cannot name something to be a taxable privilege unless it is first a privilege”
[*Taxation West Key 53*].

The Constitution is the Supreme Law⁶⁶ of the land (Article VI).⁶⁷ Chief Justice Marshall said in 1803 in *Marbury v. Madison* 5 U.S. 137 which has been interpreted as meaning *anything repugnant to the Constitution is null and void* (Emphasis added.). All State constitutions are subservient to the U.S. Constitution and any *State law* expanding the power of State government to tax its Citizens is also *null and void* (*Marbury vs. Madison*, 1803). (Emphasis added.)

The courts⁶⁸, federal and State, are bound to make rulings that limit the government in light of Constitutional restraints imposed on government,

“If an act of the legislature, repugnant to the Constitution, is void, does it, notwithstanding its invalidity, bind the courts, and oblige them to give it effect? . . . It is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is. Those who apply the rule to particular cases must, of necessity, expound and interpret that rule. If two laws conflict with each other, the courts must decide on the operation of each . . . If, then, the courts are to regard the

⁶⁵ **Privilege:** “A particular benefit or advantage enjoyed by a person, company, or class beyond the common advantages of other citizens . . .” (*Black’s Law Dictionary*, 6th Edition). “Since the right to receive income or earnings is a right belonging to every person, this right cannot be taxed as a privilege,” [Jack Cole Co. v. MacFarland, 337 S.W. 2d 453, 455-456 (Tenn. 1960)].

⁶⁶ In *Marbury vs. Madison* (1803) the court recognized the Constitution is superior to United States laws when it said, “It is also not entirely unworthy of observation that, in declaring what shall be the *supreme* law of the land, the *Constitution* itself is first mentioned; and not the laws of the United States generally, but those only which shall be made in *pursuance* of the Constitution, have that rank.”

⁶⁷ The only law higher than the Constitution is God’s law and the dictates of one’s own conscience. However, it is important to understand that the Constitution is based on Common Law, that is, it declares, in part, that rights come from God and that man has right to “exercise his religion” (Amendment I) as long as it does not infringe on the rights of others.

⁶⁸ “It is apparent that the framers of the Constitution contemplated that instrument [the Constitution] as a rule for the government of courts, as well as of the legislature, Why otherwise does it direct the judges to take an oath to support it?” (*Marbury vs. Madison*, 1803).

Constitution, and the Constitution is superior to any ordinary act of the legislature, the Constitution, and not such ordinary act, must govern the case to which they both apply.”
[*Marbury vs. Madison*, 1803]

In *Marbury vs. Madison* while the court was arguing for the limited nature of the Constitution and the right of the court to make determinations, the court recognized **taxing restraints of the congress** and the right of the court to make null and void any taxing legislation contrary to the Constitution when it said, “It is declared that “no tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any State.” Suppose a duty on the export of cotton, of tobacco, or of flour; and a suit instituted to recover it. Ought judgment to be rendered in such a case?”

The Constitution yields to no legislative act. All legislative acts must surrender to the limitations of the Constitution. The President and all administrative agencies including the IRS, the Legislature, the Supreme Court, and inferior courts are under a moral duty to limit the State by the words in the Constitution, Why otherwise does it direct the judges to take an oath to support it?”

The Constitution of the United States confirms and strengthens the principle, supposed to be essential to all written constitutions, that a law repugnant to the Constitution is void; and that courts, as well as other departments, are bound by that instrument (*Marbury vs. Madison*, 1803).

However, the legal reality is the courts are Article II Courts where the judges, the prosecutor, and the IRS accuser gets paid by the United States. The system operates on presumption regarding “public policy” and **the government is not about to give up this billion dollar tax scheme.**

11.12 The Income Tax Declared Unconstitutional

Whether the Constitution had to yield to a legislative act was first tested in 1895. In the *Pollock v. Farmers Loan & Trust Co.* (1895), **the Court declared the first income tax UNCONSTITUTIONAL.**

157 U.S. 429 (1895)

Docket Number: 893

Abstract

Argued March 7, 1895

Decided May 20, 1895

Facts of the Case: The Constitution gave the States the power to impose direct taxation. The federal government could impose direct taxes as well, but only if those taxes were apportioned among the States in proportion to their representation in Congress. In this case the Court

examined a national income tax passed by Congress in 1894. This case was decided together with *Hyde v. Continental Trust Company of the City of New York*.

Question Presented: Was the income tax a direct tax in violation of the Constitution (Article I, Section 9)?

Conclusion: Yes. The Court held that the act violated the Constitution since it imposed taxes on personal income derived from real estate investments and personal property such as stocks and bonds; this was a direct taxation scheme, not apportioned properly among the States. The decision was negated by the adoption of the Sixteenth Amendment in 1913.

The *Pollock Case* defined “direct” and “indirect taxes: “...Ordinarily, all taxes paid primarily by persons who can shift the burden upon someone else, or who are under no legal compulsion to pay them, are considered *indirect taxes*; but a tax upon property holders in respect of their States, whether real or personal, or of the income yielded by such States, and the payment of which cannot be avoided, are *direct taxes*...” (Emphasis added).

The court ruled in the *Pollock Case* that “. . . *A tax upon one's whole income* is a tax upon the annual receipts from his whole property, and as such falls within the same class as a tax upon that property, and *is a direct tax*, in the meaning of the Constitution . . .” and, therefore, unlawful.

In the *Pollock Case* the court ruled the “income tax” was unconstitutional.

We have unanimously held in this case that, so far as this law operates on the receipts from municipal bonds, it cannot be sustained, because it is a tax on the powers of the States, and on their instrumentalities to borrow money, and consequently repugnant to the Constitution. ...it follows that, if the revenue from municipal bonds cannot be taxed because the source cannot be, the same rule applies to revenue from any other source not subject to the tax; and the lack of power to levy any but an apportioned tax on real and personal property equally exists as to the revenue therefrom.

The court made this ruling because the court could not find anywhere in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights that Congress had the power to tax people’s personal property or income, rich or poor. This being the case, the court struck down Congress’ attempt to tax people’s incomes.

Furthermore, because none of the documents grant Congress the alleged right to tax a Citizen’s income one will not find in Title 26 a place where Congress placed a tax on the income of the average American regardless of how much legalese stands in the way of clarity. Congressman Berger of Wisconsin, in his address to the House of Representatives on December 12, 1925, provides an interesting clue as to what changes occurred in our understanding of the term “income” after 1913. He says:

“Moreover, the word ‘income’ in these statistics is misleading. Whenever the word ‘income’ is applied to a corporation or business, it means net profit. It means the surplus which remains after

provision is made for all expenses and the maintenance and replacement of machinery. On the other hand, whenever the term is applied to the individual worker, it simply means his wages or salary. There is no consideration for the human asset that is being used up—none for the replacement of the person worn out by the stress of modern industry---no provision for the raising of a family."

The Brushaber Case, by a unanimous decision, ruled that the 16th Amendment did not give Congress any new power to tax any new subjects; it merely tried to simplify the way in which the tax was imposed. It also showed that the income tax was in fact an excise tax on corporate privileges and privileged occupations [Brushaber v. Union Pacific R.R. Co., 240 U.S. 1, at 10-11(1916)].

Stanton v. Baltic Mining Co., 240 U.S. 112 (1916):" . . . by the previous ruling, it was settled that the provisions of the 16th Amendment conferred no new power of taxation but simply prohibited the previous complete and plenary power of income taxation possessed by Congress from the beginning from being taken out of the category of INDIRECT taxation to which it inherently belonged . . ." (Emphasis added.)

The Eisner v. Macomber Case dealt with the *definition of the word "income"* as defined in the 16th Amendment. The word "*income*" means the same thing as it did when the Amendment was written. Income was defined as "**gain derived from capital, from labor, or from both combined;**" i.e., "the gain derived—from—capital," etc. Income is simply not what the average American thinks of when he thinks of income, capital, or labor [Eisner v. Macomber, 252 U.S. 189, at 206-207 (1920)].

Regarding the definition of income, Justice Mahlon Pitney declared that,

"Congress cannot by any definition it may adopt conclude the matter, since it cannot by legislation alter the Constitution, from which alone it derives its power to legislate, and within whose limitations alone that power can be lawfully exercised." (Emphasis added.)

In the Simms v. Arehns Case, the Court ruled that the income tax was neither a property tax nor a tax upon occupations of common right, but was an *excise tax*.

In the Redfield v. Fisher Case, the Court ruled that the individual, unlike the corporation, cannot be taxed for the mere privilege of existing, but that the individual's right to live and own property was a natural right upon which an excise cannot be imposed, and that . . . the income tax is an excise tax.

In Doyle v. Mitchell the court stated: "Whatever difficulty there may be about a precise and scientific definition of 'income,' it imports . . . **the idea of gain or increase arising from corporate activities...We must reject** . . . the broad contention submitted on behalf of the Government that all receipts, **everything that comes in is income within the proper definition of gross income** . . ." [Doyle v. Mitchell, 247 U.S. 179 (1921)]. (Emphasis added.)

In the *Jack Cole v. Commissioner*: The court ruled that citizens are entitled by right to income or earnings and that God-given right could not be taxed as a privilege.⁶⁹

In *Corn v. Fort Case*, the court ruled that individuals have the right to combine their activities as partnerships; and that this is a natural right independent and antecedent of government.

In *Knowlton v. Moore* this ruling was rendered: The graduated income tax is not an apportioned tax and, therefore, cannot be imposed upon property. "Direct taxes bear immediately upon persons, upon possessions and enjoyments of rights . . ." [*Knowlton v. Moore*, 178 U.S. 41]:

"Direct taxes bear immediately upon persons, upon possessions, and enjoyment of rights . . ."
[*Knowlton v. Moore*, 178 U.S. 41]

"Income tax statutes apply only to State created creatures known as Corporations no matter whether State, local, or federal"
[*Colonial Pipeline Co. v. Traigle*, 421 US 100 (1975)]. (Emphasis added.)

The Founding Fathers never anticipated the rise of corporations and their need for supervision and governance. It is corporations that earn income derived from capital and labor, and it towards corporations that most revenue laws apply. And, it is the presence of these laws that confuse the average wage earner about what is taxable and what is not taxable.

In recent times, the lower court decisions have become contradictory to Supreme Court decisions obfuscating the nature of the income tax and confusing the public. For this reason, citizens are no longer secure in law.

In conclusion, WE THE PEOPLE are endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable rights. To protect these rights, governments are instituted among men. Fearing the power of tyrannical government, the Founders sought to restrain government by chaining it down to the powers of the Constitution.

While the government needs money to support itself, its powers to raise money are limited by constitutional restraints—limited because gluttony knows no restraints.

Nowhere in America's organic documents did the Founders give this government a right to tax personal property including wages. Because Congress is restrained by the Constitution, laws created must yield to Constitutional authority or risk being **null and void**.

Today's laws as found in Title 26 appear to be consistent with the Constitution though bogged down in legalese that is subject to misinterpretation by clowns running the circus.

⁶⁹ "Privileges are special rights, belonging to the individual or class, and not to the mass; properly, an exemption from some general burden, obligation or duty; a right peculiar to some individual or body." *Lonas v. State*, 50 Tenn. 287, 30

Present day presuppositions that the average working American (non-government employee) is required to surrender a portion of his income to the federal government after signing Form W-4s is completely out of line with Supreme Law of the Land; and, most importantly, it is out of line with God's Word in Romans 13.

11.13 Definition of Taxpayer

Source: <https://famguardian.org/Subjects/Taxes/Remedies/TaxpayerVNontaxpayer.htm>

The word “taxpayer” is defined in 26 U.S.C. §7701(a)(14) and 26 U.S.C. §1313 as someone who is “liable for” and “subject to” the income tax in Internal Revenue Code, Subtitle A.

[TITLE 26](#) > [Subtitle F](#) > [CHAPTER 79](#) > § 7701
[§ 7701. Definitions](#)

(a) When used in this title, where not otherwise distinctly expressed or manifestly incompatible with the intent thereof—

(14) Taxpayer

*The term "taxpayer" means **any person** subject to any internal revenue tax.*

The “person” they are referring to above is further characterized as a “citizen of the United States” or “resident of the United States” (alien). The tax is not on nonresident aliens, but on their INCOME, therefore they cannot lawfully be “taxpayers”:

TITLE 26--INTERNAL REVENUE

CHAPTER I--INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

PART 1_INCOME TAXES--Table of Contents

[Sec. 1.1-1 Income tax on individuals.](#)

(a) General rule.

(1) Section 1 of the Code imposes an income tax on the income of every individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States and, to the extent provided by section 871(b) or 877(b), on the income of a nonresident alien individual.

What “U.S. citizens” and “U.S. residents” share in common is a domicile on federal territory that is no part of the exclusive jurisdiction of any state of the Union. Collectively, they are called “U.S. persons” as defined in 26 U.S.C. §7701(a)(30). Remember:

“U.S. person=domicile or residence on federal territory and not any state of the Union”

The “United States” they mean in the term “U.S. citizen” is defined as federal territories and possessions in 26 U.S.C. §7701(a)(9) and (a)(10) and 4 U.S.C. §110(d) and nowhere includes any state of the Union because they are sovereign and foreign in respect to the federal

government. In that sense, income taxes are a franchise tax associated with the domicile/protection franchise.

"Thus, the Court has frequently held that domicile or residence, more substantial than mere presence in transit or sojourn, is an adequate basis for taxation, including income, property, and death taxes. Since the Fourteenth Amendment makes one a citizen of the state wherein he resides, the fact of residence creates universally reciprocal duties of protection by the state and of allegiance and support by the citizen. The latter obviously includes a duty to pay taxes, and their nature and measure is largely a political matter. Of course, the situs of property may tax it regardless of the citizenship, domicile, or residence of the owner, the most obvious illustration being a tax on realty laid by the state in which the realty is located."

[Miller Brothers Co. v. Maryland, [347 U.S. 340](#) (1954)]

"domicile. A person's legal home. That place where a man has his true, fixed, and **permanent home** and principal establishment, and to which whenever he is absent he has **the intention of returning**. *Smith v. Smith*, 206 Pa.Super. 310m 213 A.2d 94. Generally, physical presence within a state and **the intention** to make it one's home are the requisites of establishing a "domicile" therein. The permanent residence of a person or the place to which he **intends to** return even though he may actually reside elsewhere. A person may have more than one residence but only one domicile. **The legal domicile of a person is important since it, rather than the actual residence, often controls the jurisdiction of the taxing authorities and determines where a person may exercise the privilege of voting and other legal rights and privileges.**

[Black's Law Dictionary, Sixth Edition, p. 485]

Those who don't want to pay the tax or be "taxpayers" simply don't partake of the government protection franchise and instead declare themselves as "nonresidents" with no "residence" or "permanent address" within the jurisdiction of the taxing authority on every government form they fill out. That is why "nonresident aliens" cannot be "taxpayers". For further details, see:

[Why Domicile and Becoming a "Taxpayer" Require Your Consent](#), Form #05.002

<http://sedm.org/Forms/FormIndex.htm>

11.14 Legal Robbery

Excerpt from "How to Show That Taxation is Robbery" (September 8, 2012) at <http://objectivisminddepth.com/2012/09/08/how-to-show-that-taxation-is-robbery/>

"If I have earned, say, \$1,000 this week through my own labor, and another man comes up to me, points a gun at me, and tells me to give him the money, so he can pay his rent, is this robbery? Is it legal for him to do it? What if he tells me it's for his friend's rent? Is that robbery/legal? What if he gets 9 of his friends and they all tell me I need to give him my money? Is that robbery/legal? What if the 10 men write up a document that says I have to give him my money, and they include me in a vote to affirm or reject the "law" that says I should give him my money? They all vote "yes" on the "law" and I vote "no." "Now," they tell me, "we as a society of 11 have drafted a law that says that you have an obligation to give us the money. We have taken a vote and you have been outvoted. As a part of our society, you now owe us this money.

If you don't give it to us, we will imprison you at gunpoint. If you don't like what we are doing, you can leave our territory." Is THIS robbery? Yes, the same forcible imposition of the wills of others upon me has been made. Is it legal? Yes, actually; it is now "legal," because a *law* has been voted on and passed. It is *legal robbery*. So, the question is: **How many people does it take before this practice ceases to be robbery? A hundred? A thousand? Ten million?"**

11.15 Distinction About Types of Money

By Mickey Paoletta, Banking Expert

A book written by the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, entitled "The Federal Reserve, Its Purposes and Functions," states that 98.6% of the total money supply in the United States is comprised of credit money and/or debt instruments.

In the Fall of 2006, the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond wrote an article that substantively proves the precarious economic condition of the United States. They reported that **the total aggregate debt of the United States is 69.5 trillion dollars** (*and counting*), yet the Federal Reserve Board of Governors admits the total amount of currency in circulation today is only one trillion dollars. The question that has to be asked is simply this: How can the American people and the United States Government pay a \$69.5 trillion total aggregate debt with only one trillion dollars in circulation? The only honest answer is: "that's impossible." This "defect" in the money system was intentionally designed to create economic hardships from prosperity to depression and anywhere in between. The creators of the Federal Reserve Banking System have deceptively built fatal flaws into the Federal Reserve Banking System that will eventually lead to the collapse of the American economy and the American political system of Government. These fatal flaws, built into the Federal Reserve Banking System place greater payment demands on the entire system (principle plus interest) that far exceed the total supply of money. Under the Federal Reserve Banking System, **it is impossible for the people, the United States Government, State Governments, and corporations to ever get out of debt.** In 2000 the Federal Government claimed the total debt was 4.5 trillion dollars, and in 2008 the alleged federal debt was over 9 trillion dollars. The only plausible temporary relief is to increase the total money supply by borrowing additional money, and through the printing of notes with no value to back them other than the debt. This further compounds the debt cycle with a greater degree of devastation until the system self-destructs before our very eyes.

The Federal Reserve Banking System couldn't exist without the approval of the United States Government, the American Judicial System, the American Bar Association, the Democratic and Republican parties, the editors and publishers of our newspapers, and the controllers and owners of radio and television networks.

The supporters of the Federal Reserve Banking System **are using surgical precision accuracy in their conspiratorial violations of the United States Constitution;** and these conspirators are

doing so in furtherance of their goals to enslave and deprive the citizens of their God-given rights which are guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. A quote spoken by Daniel Webster in the Congressional Record, March 4, 1846, “**A disordered currency is one of the greatest political evils.** It undermines the virtues necessary for the support of the social system, and encourages propensities destructive to its happiness. It wars against industry, frugality and economy, and it fosters evil spirits of extravagance and speculation. Of all the contrivances for cheating the laboring classes of mankind, none has been more effectual than that which deludes them with paper money.” (Deconstructing Banking and Money Dynamics)

11.16 The Truth About Money

From Modern Money Mechanics

“Of course, they (Banks) do not really pay out loans from the money they receive as deposits. If they did this, no additional money would be created. What they do when they make loans is to **accept promissory notes in exchange for credits** to the borrowers' transaction accounts. Loans (assets) and deposits (liabilities) both rise by the amount of the loan.”, from "*Modern Money Mechanics*" Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Page 6 (Emphasis mine).

“When a Bank makes a \$9,000 loan the bank accepts the promissory note(s) of the borrower in exchange for credits to the borrower’s transaction account (demand Deposit). Bank Loans (Assets) and deposits (liabilities) both rise by \$9,000. But the deposit credits constitute new additions to the deposits of the banking system.”, from “Modern Money Mechanics”, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Page 6.

“Bank credit isn’t a one way street. It adds to our money supply, to be sure, but our money supply declines as bank credit is repaid. Banks, then, can “destroy” or “extinguish” money as well as create it.” “Money: Master or Servant?” Federal Reserve Bank of New York Page 15. “Put another way, when the Federal Reserve buys government securities, it is by the mere stroke of a pen putting new money into the banking system, money which itself can lead to the creation of even more new money. When the Federal Reserve writes a check, it is creating money.” “Putting it Simply,” (Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Page 17).

11.17 Truth About the Federal Reserve

The Federal Reserve is a private profit seeking tax-exempt corporation that is literally owned and controlled by the bankers themselves for their economic gain at the expense of the American people and the Government of these United States! “When the Federal Reserve was created; its stock was sold to the member banks. As stockholders, they elect some of the directors of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks. The other directors are appointed by the Board of Governors. The directors and the officers they select run the Federal Reserve Banks and their 20,000 or more employees, who are not under Civil Service.”, from “*The Hats the Federal Reserve Wears*” , Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Page 14.

11.18 How to Translate Romans 13:8

Romans 13:1 “For there is no power but (except) of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”

The “if not” (eiv mh) in verse one is usually translated “except.” The term “except” is a good translation of the negative particle, but it literally means “if not.” This construction in Greek informs us of an exception to a general rule. It is the same particle used in Romans 13:8.

Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but (except) to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Let’s look at the negative particle “**except**” (“if not” (eiv mh) in Romans 13:8. The text commands believers not to be in debt *except* the debt to love one another; that is, it is not God’s will for Christians to be debtors . . . but there is an exception. It is his will for them to be creditors . . . except regarding the duty to love one another. When it comes to love, all Christians are debtors. Each is required to see themselves in debt to love those in need.

Thus, the general rule is DON’T BE IN DEBT. But, there is an exception to that rule – the debt to love one another.

11.19 Good Government

Good government is not about form, but about its degree of commitment to provide government services for the people without violating God’s law. Government is an ordained institution of God for the purpose of punishing evil (crime) as defined only by God’s Word (Genesis 9:1-6).

God’s magistrates are called “rulers,” “deacons,” “ministers” and “revengers of wrath.” The Lord is sovereign over the nations. Not only are Christians called to submit to legitimate authorities, **civil servants are called to obey the King of the Nations and to arrange their affairs under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ!** (Psalm 2).

Yes, Christians are to pay lawful taxes, live in fear, and show respect to those whom honor is due. But, these same administrations **are called to surrender to Christ and obey His law!** But, you don’t hear fists pounding on pulpits about how rulers are duty bound to obey God’s law. Why not?

The context of government in this passage has to do with Biblical law. He is not telling us to submit to private law or civil law without our consent. Common law has universal application, while civil law has a narrow application to special persons. Common law appeals to the conscience, while civil law appeals to the law of contracts. The former is mandatory and binding on all men while the latter is voluntary and binding only on those who consent to a contract.

Exodus 23:32-33 Thou shalt make no covenant (contract) with them, nor with their gods (public officials). They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me (by legislation): for if thou serve their gods (their laws), it will surely be a snare unto thee.

Paul does not deal with the exceptions in this passage. But, the whole of Scripture teaches us that nations are in rebellion against God and His Son (Psalm 2), and that Christians need to be

prepared to respond wisely to civil rulers that do not honor God or His Law. Government is not god! The president is not a king! If you cannot disobey the government, then government is your god!!

Sometimes it is necessary to disobey civil rulers in order to obey Christ. *If Christ is Lord, it is not possible or desirable to always obey the state.*

Christian heroes were lawbreakers. **John Bunyan** sat in jail for refusing to accept a license to preach. **Richard Wurmbrand** was beaten because he defied communism and smuggled Bibles into communist Romania. **Robert E. Lee** was stalked by the local sheriff because he taught slaves to read the Bible; Lincoln declared war on the South because they would not submit to his unconstitutional acts.

Christians have always acknowledged a higher law than that of the State. He is the Higher Authority over “higher authorities.” When governments acknowledge God’s sovereignty and obey His law, it is easier for Christians to submit to such authorities. When governments step outside their God-given authority, Christians must resist, but they may also have to pay the consequences for their resistance. In this case, courage should be admired and submission out of fear is understandable.

The problem, however, is that when an individual Christian faces a legal challenge with the State, his brethren flee like cockroaches to hide in the nearest hole in the wall. As Jesus was abandoned by his disciples at his trial before Pilate, and as Paul was abandoned in Rome during his trial before Caesar (2 Timothy 4), the godly Christian cannot expect fellow Christians who see government as god, not to abandon them during their legal confrontation with State authorities. The walk of obedience is a lonely road.

In applying this passage, the believer is called to understand the nature of our constitutional republic and the fact that the United States government is not above the law. In our system, the government is subject to the laws of nature and of nature's God.

People should not accept, should not expect government to shoulder responsibilities that God has placed on individual human beings.

The people have no duties placed upon them in the Constitution. Duties are placed on government. People have rights; officers have duties—tough duties.

Finally, always obey Christ, and honor the state, but not always! We are not slaves and we need to stop thinking we need the permission of government for everything we do. We do not need the permission of government to do good, get a job, conduct a business, or to invest our resources.

*“If we say that we will always obey the State, the State becomes our God”
[Pastor Erwin Lutzer, “Hitler’s Cross”]*

If we cannot say, “I do not consent” to an overreaching officer, we have not arranged ourselves under the King of kings, and the Lord of lords.

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