

What Does the Bible Say about Christians and the Government?

1. Human Government is established by _____!

Genesis 9:6-7 - ⁶"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. ⁷And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it."

DRAW:

Daniel 2:20-21a - ²⁰Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.

²¹He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings...

Daniel 4:17 - The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.'

John 19:11 - ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

2. What are the _____ of Human Government?

- Romans 13.3-4
- 1 Peter 2.12-14
- Restrain _____
- Promote human _____

DRAW:

3. What are our Christian _____ to Human Government?

- Be _____ to governing authorities.
Romans 13.1, 1 Peter 2.13

- Pay _____. – Romans 13.6-7

Matthew 22:21 – ...Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

- **PRAY!**

1 Timothy 2:1-4 - ¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

4. BUT... "Why do the nations _____?"

Psalms 2:1-3

¹Why do the nations rage

and the peoples plot in vain?

²The kings of the earth set themselves,

and the rulers take counsel together,

against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,

³"Let us burst their bonds apart

and cast away their cords from us."

- When a law directly violates a clear command of Scripture, then and ONLY then, we will be required to disobey an evil government or an evil law.

DRAW:

Acts 4:18-20 - ¹⁸So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

Acts 5:27-29 - ²⁷And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

Exodus 1:15-17 - ¹⁵Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶"When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." ¹⁷But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live...

- BUT... As Christians we should NOT use violence to resist the evils of human government, to protect our religious liberty, or to promote societal change.

Matthew 26:51-52 - ⁵¹ And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword."

Luke 22:49-51 - ⁴⁹And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.

Matthew 5:43-45 - ⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven...

5. Should Christians _____ in government and public discourse?

James 1:19 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.

Titus 3:1-2 - ¹Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ²to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

Conclusion:

Matthew 4:8-11 - Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Psalms 118:8-9

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in man.

⁹It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes.

Psalms 103:19

¹⁹The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.

Application:

- Don't expect too much from flawed, sinful human government.
- Don't be surprised by the ways that human governments go astray.
- DON'T put your trust in human leaders, politicians, and governments!
- Be willing to suffer for Jesus!
- Submit to rulers and government authorities.
- Pay your taxes!
- And PRAY!!!

Revelation 11:15-18 - ¹⁵Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." ¹⁶And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷saying,

"We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,

who is and who was,

for you have taken your great power

and begun to reign.

¹⁸The nations raged,

but your wrath came,

and the time for the dead to be judged,

and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints,

and those who fear your name,

both small and great,

and for destroying the destroyers of the earth."