

26_CiC week 3_Ed Stetzer





I. We obey the government as the rule.

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I. We obey the government as the rule.

1. Government is instituted by God.

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Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the emperor as the supreme authority...Honor everyone. Love the brothers and sisters. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

1 P E T E R 2 : 1 3 , 1 7

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I. We obey the government as the rule.

1. Government is instituted by God.
2. Government has the task of punishing evil.

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...or to governors as those sent out by him to punish those who do what is evil and to praise those who do what is good.

1 P E T E R 2 : 1 4

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I. We obey the government as the rule.

1. Government is instituted by God.
2. Government has the task of punishing evil.
3. Our role to assist government is to do good and to submit to authority.

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For it is God's will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good. Submit as free people, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but as God's slaves.

1 P E T E R 2 : 1 5 - 1 6

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I. We obey the government as the rule.

1. Government is instituted by God.
2. Government has the task of punishing evil.
3. Our role to assist government is to do good and to submit to authority.
4. We are also to pray for government leaders for the gospel's sake.

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First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4

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II. We disobey the government as the exception.

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II. We disobey the government as the exception.

1. Old Testament examples

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II. We disobey the government as the exception.

1. Old Testament examples
2. New Testament

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So they called for them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

Peter and John answered them, "Whether it's right in the sight of God for us to listen to you rather than to God, you decide; for we are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

ACTS 4:18-20

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"Didn't we strictly order you not to teach in this name? Look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching..."

Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than people."

ACTS 5:28-29

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II. We disobey the government as the exception.

1. Old Testament examples
2. New Testament
3. Faithfulness to God is the motivation rather than defiance of a government.

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II. We disobey the government as the exception.

1. Old Testament examples
2. New Testament
3. Faithfulness to God is the motivation rather than defiance of a government.
4. Christ-like character should outshine civil disobedience.

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Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God's wrath, because it is written, Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord.

ROMANS 12:19

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III. Principles for disobeying the government.

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III. Principles for disobeying the government.

1. There should be a clear command of God at stake.

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III. Principles for disobeying the government.

1. There should be a clear command of God at stake.
2. This does not give a right to resist arrest.

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So they arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail during the night, brought them out, and said, "Go and stand in the temple, and tell the people all about this life." Hearing this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

ACTS 5:18-21

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III. Principles for disobeying the government.

1. There should be a clear command of God at stake.
2. This does not give a right to resist arrest.
3. Believers can leverage unjust punishment for God's glory.

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About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains came loose. When the jailer woke up and saw the doors of the prison standing open, he drew his sword and was going to kill himself, since he thought the prisoners had escaped.

But Paul called out in a loud voice, "Don't harm yourself, because we're all here!"

ACTS 16:25-31

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The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. He escorted them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

ACTS 16:25-31

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IV. Related concepts a Christian may choose.

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IV. Related concepts a Christian may choose.

1. Civil disobedience

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IV. Related concepts a Christian may choose.

1. Civil disobedience
2. Conscientious objection (refusal to participate)

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IV. Related concepts a Christian may choose.

1. Civil disobedience
2. Conscientious objection (refusal to participate)
3. We apply caution in every instance of disobeying the government.

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V. When is disobedience to the government biblically justified?

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CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION

- Civil disobedience should always be a last resort, not a first impulse.
- It must be grounded in biblical conviction, not personal preference or partisan loyalty.
- It should be nonviolent, truthful, and aimed at justice rather than power.
- Willingness to accept legal consequences demonstrates moral seriousness.
- The ultimate goal should be faithful witness, not political victory.
- This means distinguishing between inconvenience and injustice.

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