

A Government established by God...

Romans 13:1-5 NIV

1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 **For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong.** Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. **4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid,** for he does not bear the sword for nothing. **He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.** 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

Different Perspectives...

- ✓ **Rebellious Radical:** Disobeys government whenever likes and feels like it.
- ✓ **Purblind Patriot:** Always obeys the government no matter the command.
- ✓ **Conscientious Christian:** Obeys God authorized government, but free to act in civil disobedience to a government that commands or compels people to act in a manner that is contrary to the clear teachings of God's Word or oversteps its God given authority.

Acts 5:29 NLT

Peter and the apostles replied, "**We must obey God rather than any human authority**".

Different Types of Laws

- ✓ **Laws Against Evil** (you must obey)
- ✓ **Laws Against Good** (you must disobey)

Acts 4:18-20 NKJV

they called them and **commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.**

19 But Peter and John answered and said to them,

"Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

- ✓ **Laws Beyond God's Authorization** (may obey or disobey)

Notes: _____

You Asked For It!

Is Civil Disobedience Allowed By God?

When government punishes the good...

1. **Resist** any government that commands or compels evil.

Exodus 1:15-17 NLT

15 Then Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, gave this order to the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah: 16 "When you help the Hebrew women as they give birth, watch as they deliver. **If the baby is a boy, kill him; if it is a girl, let her live.**" 17 But **because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king's orders.** They allowed the boys to live, too.

2. Be prepared to **suffer** persecution.

Acts 5:40-42 NLT

40 ...**They called in the apostles and had them flogged.**

Then they ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus, and they let them go. 41 The apostles left the high council **rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus.** 42 And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "**Jesus is the Messiah.**"

3. **Help** people facing unjust consequences of government.

1 Kings 18:3 TLB

...**Obadiah, who was a devoted follower of the Lord.** Once when Queen Jezebel had tried to kill all of the Lord's prophets, **Obadiah had hidden one hundred of them** in two caves-fifty in each-and **had fed them with bread and water.**

1 Samuel 14:45 CEV

"No!" the soldiers shouted. "God helped Jonathan win the battle for us. We won't let you kill him. We swear to the Lord that **we won't let you kill him or even lay a hand on him!**"

So the army kept Saul from killing Jonathan.

4. Work at **installing** good government leaders.

Proverbs 29:2 TLB

With **good men in authority, the people rejoice;** but with the wicked in power, they groan.

5. **Pray** for all in authority to be saved and set free.

1 Timothy 2:1-6 NLT

1 I urge you, first of all, to **pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them.** 2 Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and **pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.** 5 For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. 6 **He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone.**

This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time.