

The background is a complex, abstract composition of horizontal bands. Each band is filled with various colors and textures, including splatters, brushstrokes, and layered paint. The colors range from deep blues and purples to bright oranges and reds, with some areas appearing more washed out or faded. The overall effect is one of dynamic movement and layered complexity.

Our Cultural Moment

GOVERNMENT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, **2020**

JOHN SCHREIER

Elder / Evangelism & Outreach

NATE SCHILL

Elder / M.A., Christian Apologetics

INTRODUCTION

Origin and Purpose of Government

Historical Perspectives on American Govt.

(Mis)application of Romans 13

Biblical Examples (of Civil Disobedience)

Current Examples

INTRODUCTION

“The glory of freedom should never blind anyone to its immoderate nature and therefore to the stern requirements that surround it. For at the heart of freedom lies a grand paradox: ***the greatest enemy of freedom is freedom.***”

–Os Guinness, *A Free People's Suicide* (2012)

INTRODUCTION

“Americans must decide where they are, choose which of the two great revolutions best foster freedom, and commit themselves to what needs to be done to restore a vital and sustainable freedom. **The task is great and the hour is late.**”

—Os Guinness, *Last Call for Liberty* (2018)

(MIS)APPLICATION OF ROMANS 13

Romans 13:1-5

- We are to be **subject to** the governing authorities (13:1).
- Governing authorities are **ordained and established** by God (13:1).
- Opposing governing authorities will result in **condemnation** (13:2).

(MIS)APPLICATION OF ROMANS 13

Romans 13:1-5

- Government serves to **restrain and punish evil** (13:3).
- Government serves to **promote good** (13:3, 4).
- Government is God's **minister** (13:4).

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Biblical Examples

- Exodus 1:17, 20 (Shiprah and Puah)
- Daniel 1:12-15 (dietary laws)
- Daniel 3:16-18 (worship / Nebuchadnezzar)
- Daniel 6:7 (prayer / lion's den)
- Acts 4:18-20 (Peter and John)
- Acts 5:28-29 (We must obey God)

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Carefully and Respectfully

1. If asked to **violate a command** from God.
2. When asked to do an **immoral** act.
3. When asked to go **against Christian conscience**, one that is informed by Scripture and in submission to the Spirit of God.

-R. Kent Hughes, *Romans (Preaching the Word)*

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Current Examples

1. NY Governor – Synagogues
2. Idaho – Arrests during outdoor worship
3. Calvary Chapel San Jose
4. North Valley Baptist Church
5. Calvary Chapel Dayton Valley
6. Godspeak Calvary Chapel
7. Grace Community Church
8. Capitol Hill Baptist Church

JUSTICE GORSUCH, dissenting from denial of application for injunctive relief.

This is a simple case. Under the Governor's edict, a 10-screen "multiplex" may host 500 moviegoers at any time. A casino, too, may cater to hundreds at once, with perhaps six people huddled at each craps table here and a similar number gathered around every roulette wheel there. Large numbers and close quarters are fine in such places. But churches, synagogues, and mosques are banned from admitting more than 50 worshippers—no matter how large the building, how distant the individuals, how many wear face masks, no matter the precautions at all. In Nevada, it seems, it is better to be in entertainment than religion. Maybe that is nothing new. But the First Amendment prohibits such obvious discrimination against the exercise of religion. The world we inhabit today, with a pandemic upon us, poses unusual challenges. But there is no world in which the Constitution permits Nevada to favor Caesars Palace over Calvary Chapel.