

DEFY GOD-DEFY TYRANTS #2

I. Introduction

I want to continue our new series on the Word of the Lord for the New Year...

“Obey God-Defy Tyrants”

This series of sermons is built upon these 2 words for God to His church for 2023:
We are to respond to God with obedience; to tyrants with defiance.

The teachings are timely because American Christianity is on a collision course with the current political party in power attempting to reconstruct our country and take away our freedom.

Our foundational text is Acts 5:29. where those in political power had forbidden the Apostles to teach or preach in the name of Jesus, and Peter replied...

Acts 5:29

“We ought to obey God rather than men.”

Christians are commanded to obey the law, pay taxes, submit to civil authority.

But there is a limit. We can be pushed to a place where keeping God’s commandments will require us to break men’s commandments. Where government is godly there is no problem. But when tyrants arise, they must be defied.

When obeying man’s law requires us to break God’s law, we ought to obey God!

Tonight I want to tackle the root of the issue with a teaching entitled...

“Dominion Versus Domination”

3 Points

1. God gave man dominion over creation

2. Sin perverted the godly commandment to 'have dominion' into an ungodly drive to 'seek domination'.

3. Dominion is the faithful stewardship of authority; beginning with us!

II. Dominion Versus Domination

A. God Gave Man Dominion

1. The creation account tells us that Man was created for dominion!

Gen 1:26

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; *let them have dominion* over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Genesis 1:27-28

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; *have dominion* over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

2. What is 'dominion'?

"Dominion"

Power, authority, jurisdiction, control, command; the right to govern or rule or determine.

3. Think of it! Man was created in the 'image and likeness of God'; as God has 'dominion' over all things, He delegated dominion to man over the earth!

Genesis 1:26

They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." (HSCB)

They will reign over (NLT)

**Have power over (TEV)
Have complete authority over (AMP)**

Adam Clarke

God created man capable of governing the world and fixed him for dominion.

4. The great Psalmist King David was in awestruck wonder over how the great Creator God regarded man so highly that He would actually share a portion of His dominion with Him.

Psalm 8:3-4 HCSB

When I observe Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You set in place, what is man that You remember him, the son of man that You look after him?

Psalm 8:5-9 HCSB

You made him little less than God (NASB: 'a little lower than God') and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him lord over the works of Your hands; You put everything under his feet: all the sheep and oxen, as well as animals in the wild, birds of the sky, and fish of the sea passing through the currents of the seas. Lord, our Lord, how magnificent is Your name throughout the earth!

a. The Psalmist has a biblical worldview: He is amazed that Almighty God has made man in His own image and likeness, just a 'little lower' than Himself and given man God-like authority over the works of His hands!

Albert Barnes

The relation of man to the creature is that of sovereignty. Those capacities in which man resembles God qualify him for dominion, and constitute him lord of all creatures that are destitute of intellectual and moral endowments. Hence, wherever man enters he makes his sway to be felt.

Albert Barnes

He is therefore authorized, by the word of the Creator, to exercise his power in subduing the earth and ruling over the animal kingdom. This is the fitting sequel of his being created in the image of God. Being formed for dominion, the earth

and its various products and inhabitants are assigned to him for the display of his powers.

5. God placed our first parents in the Garden with the command to 'dress it' (cultivate it) and 'keep it' (guard it). Man's dominion extended beyond the garden

Dr. Henry Morris

The command to subdue the earth means bringing all earth's systems and processes into a state of optimum productivity and utility, offering the greatest glory to God and benefit to mankind.

5. Over the last 6,000 years, man has been fulfilling the Dominion Mandate over the earth.

The Biblical Illustrator

Man's authority over nature was man's original commission and history is the story of the execution of the commission. Wherever civilized man has gone, there he has been gaining dominion and subduing the earth... See how he makes the fish feed him, and the sheep clothe him, and the horse draw him, and the ox plough for him, and the fowl of the air furnish him feathers for his pillow.

The Biblical Illustrator

Man subdues nature: He dikes the oceans, dams the rivers, digs the canals, builds roads and bridges; he mines the minerals of earth, turning sand into glass, mud into bricks; he makes earth's grains to feed him, its cottons to clothe him, its forests to house him, and its coals warm him.

The Biblical Illustrator

But in whose name does man administer this mighty domain? Not in his own name but even in the name of Him in whose image he is made. The Son of God alone is King, and man is but His viceroy, made in His image. Man holds the estate of earth in trust; his only right is as a trustee.

6. In other words, Dominion is like the stewardship illustrated in Jesus' parable of the 10 talents in Matthew 25.

Matthew 25:14

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them."

a. God is the 'Owner' of all things but, as here, gives dominion over His goods to men on earth as a stewardship. Dominion done right is godly.

Pastor Chuck Giacinto

Dominion should be a stewardship, a partnership with God. But dominion can get perverted into domination.

How this happened is Point #2:

B. Sin Perverted Man's Desire for Dominion into a Desire for Domination

Theme

**With the entrance of sin, man's desire for dominion over the creation was perverted into a desire for domination over other men.
And tyrants came into the earth.**

1. Dominion is the godly exercise of authority over creation; domination is the exercise of ungodly authority over others.

a. Domination, (or tyranny), is all about *control*.

"Domination"

The control over someone or something, especially in an unpleasant way; to command, control, or prevail over all others; the state of having total control over people

2. Domination is the *perversion* of dominion.

"Perversion"

The alteration of something from its original purpose, meaning, or state to a distortion or corruption of what was first intended.

3. God had a good purpose for giving man dominion; but sin perverts dominion into domination. Remember?

Dr. Miles Munroe

Principles of Purpose

- **God is a God of purpose**
- **Everything has a purpose**
- **Sometimes, purpose is not known**
- ***When purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable***

a. Domination is the abuse of dominion.

Pastor Chuck Giacinto

The enemy perverts dominion into domination, whether in a relationship, marriages, families, or churches, or governments. Domination is the product of a lust for control by use of force, manipulation, or coercion.

- a. Husbands abuse dominion in the home when they dominate their wives.
- b. Pastors abuse their dominion in the church when they dominate the flock
- c. Civil governments abuse dominion when they dominate the citizens

Dr. Miles Monroe

God created men and women to dominate the earth, not dominate one another. Sin has corrupted the desire for godly dominion and perverted it into a desire to control others.

Dr. Miles Munroe

After the Fall, although they maintained certain aspects of the nature of God, their sin prevented them from being reflections of the character of God. Thus, the godly commandment to 'have dominion' was perverted into an ungodly drive to 'seek domination'.

Pastor Chuck Giacinto

We have to discern the difference between dominion and domination. God called us to exercise dominion over creation, not to go about exercising domination over the lives of others.

4. Domination, as the perversion of dominion, can occur at micro or macro levels.

a. At a micro level, it can be a husband abusing his wife; a father abusing his children; or a pastor abusing his flock.

b. At a macro level, it can be a civil government that abuses its citizens. It's happened in other nations; now it's happening in America. Now you know why...

David Sorenson, stopworldcontrol.com

The age-old desire for world domination is one of the most basic realities in the history of humanity. Since the beginning of time, power hungry madmen have attempted to seize control over the entire world all with one goal: conquer the nations, and if possible... rule the entire world.

c. It's amazing to me how many Christians seem shocked to discover that there's a plot to form a 'one-world government', as if this is some new thing that's never happened before.

d. Have they never read their Bibles? That's what they were trying to do in Babylon in Genesis 11. Have they never read human history? Have you never heard of Alexander the Great? The Roman empire? Adolf Hitler?

David Sorenson, stopworldcontrol.com

Many people in our time have been led to believe that the dark desire to rule the world has somehow miraculously disappeared. Nothing could be further from the truth. This diabolical lust is more alive and dangerous today, than ever before.

a. Global conspiracies are nothing new; they are all perversions of the Dominion Mandate. Remember...

5. God is the author of civil government; in Romans 13, the Apostle Paul says that the civil authorities are appointed by God as His 'ministers for our good'. (Romans 13:4). We are commanded to submit to civil authority.

6. But when power is abused authority is forfeited.

- a. An abusive father forfeits his authority
- b. An abusive husband cannot require his wife's submission
- c. An abusive Pastor has no right to rule
- d. And when a civil government's dominion is perverted into domination, we are not compelled to obey.

7. The God of all authority gives man dominion over His creation, not domination over his fellow man.

The Biblical Illustrator, S. McGill

A right to rule is not a right to tyrannize. Dominion extends only to such duties as are consistent with the powers of the servants, and with the place which is assigned to them.

The Biblical Illustrator, S. McGill

All power is of God, and can only be lawfully exercised when exercised according to His designs. That likeness to God in which we were originally created, should remind us that justice, goodness, and mercy, are the chief distinctions after which we should aspire...

The Biblical Illustrator

...and that our dominion was designed, like that of Him who designed it, to be exercised with wisdom, rectitude, and compassion. Our dominion toward those who are subjected to our power, only enforces on us more strongly the duty of providing for their comfort, and preserving them from injury and a desire to promote the happiness of every being within the sphere of our influence.

Which brings me to my final point...

C. Dominion is the Faithful Stewardship of Authority; Beginning With Us!

Pastor Chuck Giacinto

Dominion is stewardship over that which God has brought into our lives. We have people brought into our lives that we are to steward over, not dominate over. Those lines must not be blurred.

1. God has never rescinded the Dominion Mandate; the entrance of sin opened the door for tyrants to pervert dominion into domination; this explains the evil in human history.

2. Jesus Christ came to restore godly dominion over the earth; He called it the Kingdom of God; the will of God done on earth as it is in heaven.

- a. Jesus demonstrated dominion, not domination.
- b. His tool of dominion was obedience to His Father
- c. His only weapon was the word of God
- d. He came to serve us, not control us

Gary DeMar, "The Reduction of Christianity"

The exercise of dominion is *ethical*. It does not come automatically, nor is it imposed top-down by a political regime or by an army of Christians working frantically to overthrow the governments of the world.

Gary DeMar

God's people exercise dominion in the same way that Jesus exercised dominion —through sacrificial obedience and faithfulness to the commandments.

Dominion comes through service.

Pastor Chuck Giacinto

Having dominion of the earth means to rule, to teach, to cultivate, to protect. Domination sees itself to be served. Dominion sees itself as a servant.

3. In Mark's gospel, the disciples were debating who among them would be the greatest, who would have first place in God's government...

Mark 9:35

And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

4. Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of Lords saw Himself as a servant. He washed their feet to set an example. Eventually, the servants of Jesus overturned the tyranny of the mighty Roman Empire without ever fighting a physical battle.

5. What we are witnessing today is a battle for the soul of America; once again, the dominion God gave man in creation is being corrupted by sin and replaced by tyrants who seek to dominate their fellow men. These tyrants must be defied!

6. At the same time we must OBEY GOD! The Dominion Mandate is still in effect; no matter what happens in the nation, God has given every one of us a little 'Garden' to take care of; a place to take dominion of.

- a. Are you a father? A husband?
- b. Are you a wife? A mother?
- b. Are you a Pastor?
- c. Are you an American?

7. Dominion begins at home; actually, it begins in our hearts.

a. Are you a father? Obey God! Love your wife as Christ loved the church.

b. Are you a mother? Submit to your husband. Raise your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

c. Are you an American citizen? Defend the Constitution! Speak the truth! Spread the Gospel! Get out and vote!

8. And always discern the difference between Dominion and Domination; if Christians seek dominion to dominate others, we would become tyrants ourselves.

a. Let me close with Jesus's words that compare Dominion and Domination...

Matthew 20:25-26

But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. *Yet it shall not be so among you...*

Matthew 20:26-28

...but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave — just as *the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve*, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Closing Prayer/Title