

OBEY GOD-DEFY TYRANTS #33

I. Introduction

Tonight I would like sum up our series on the theme God gave us for 2023...
“Obey God-Defy Tyrants”.

Our foundational text was taken from the conflict between Peter and the Apostles with the governing authorities who commanded them not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

Acts 5:19

**But Peter and the other apostles answered...
“We ought to obey God rather than men.”**

Our series title was taken from this text that teaches us how to handle situations where we are forced to choose between obedience to God or to Government.
Our theme has been...

**Obedience to God will, sooner or later, require the defiance of tyrants.
(Why?) The nature of tyranny always forces the issue:
(There can be no neutrality) We will either obey God and defy tyrants;
Or we will obey tyrants and defy God.**

Tonight I want to conclude the series with the message...

“When Christ And Caesar Collide”

I want to show how the current condition of the Christian Church in America, and its conflict with the political powers of our day can be compared with the church of Jesus' day.

Theme

**We are in a modern American version of the age-old conflict over the questions:
Who is our King? Who has final authority? Christ or the State?”**

II. When Christ Collides With Caesar

A. Historical Background

1. A key moment at the trial of Jesus occurred over the question of Kingship:

John 19:12

From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."

- a. The people were pushing Pilate to a choice; friendship with Christ or Caesar?

John 19:15

Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

2. Christ was not crucified for His claims as a Savior; or a Healer; or as a Prophet. Christ was crucified over His claim to be a King; this made Him an enemy of the Emperor, a Caesar who claimed to be king.

3. The collision of Christ and Caesare continued after the resurrection in the city of Thessalonica...

Acts 17:6-7

And they dragged some of the brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have now come here...all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king — one called Jesus."

- a. Notice their *affect*: They had turned the world upside down!
- b. Notice their *defiance*: They acted 'contrary to the decrees of Caesar'
- c. Notice their *message*: There is another King—one called Jesus!
- d. The lesson for us: The Christians who turn the world upside down acted contrary to the decrees of Caesar and preached another King—one called Jesus!

4. This does not mean they were anti-government...

a. Jesus Himself said to 'Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's. (Matthew 22:21)

b. Paul commanded the Christians at Rome to obey the civil authorities.

Christians are not anti-government; but true Christians must defy the decrees of the civil government when it operates outside of its rightful jurisdiction.

Many Christians do not understand the meaning of 'Jurisdiction'

"Jurisdiction"

It comes from two Latin words, *jus*, law, and *dico*, say.

The one who has jurisdiction is the one who declares the law, whose word is the binding, authoritative word for that area or sphere of life and thought.

R. J. Rushdoony

Jurisdiction is an essentially religious fact: it tells us who is the god over a particular sphere or area; it reveals to us who declares the law for that domain.

In other words, it shows us who is lord.

The Bible tells us that God is the ultimate authority with jurisdiction over every area of life and thought. However, within His ultimate jurisdictional authority, God has delegated jurisdictional authority within different spheres of government.

Spheres of Government: Jurisdictions Under God

- **Self-Government (Free will)**
- **Family-Parents**
- **Church-Pastors/Elders**
- **State-Civil governments**

3. Christians are commanded to obey all authorities as long as they operate within their jurisdictions according to God's law. (Apply); at such point as those in authority supersede their proper jurisdictions, as in the case of tyrants, they are to be defied.

Pastor Dan Jarms, Faith Bible Church

The Scripture describes four spheres of government—the individual, the family, government and church. When each of these God-ordained institutions operates according to God’s design, the result is harmony, flourishing, and justice. When any one sphere over-reaches, the result is abuse. When any one sphere abdicates, the result is chaotic neglect.

Pastor Dan Jarms

So, when do we say to the government, “This is not your jurisdiction?”

III. 3 Spheres Where Tyrants Must Be Defied

- **Freedom of Speech (Religion and the Press)**
- **The Right to Equal Justice Under the Law**
- **The Issue Over Who Owns the Children**

A. Over the Issue of Freedom of speech

1. The freedom of speech is closely connected to freedom of religion.

Acts 5:27-28

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them, saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine..."

Acts 5:29

But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."

2. Freedom of speech is not only closely connected to religious freedom, it is also closely connected to freedom of the Press; tyrants who control the press must be defied.

- a. Social platforms, Hollywood movies, mainstream media...

Joseph Goebbels

Let me control the media and I will turn any nation into a herd of pigs.

(He also said...)

Joseph Goebbels

“Accuse the other side of that which you are guilty.”

Which leads me to...

B. Second Collision of Christ and Caesar: The Right to Equal Justice Under the Law

1. The Word of God establishes the concepts of justice, including: the right to a fair trial, the principle of innocent until proven guilty, and the demand for equal justice under the law.

2. Yet, for the 1st time in our 247 year history, we are watching the weaponization of our justice system at the Federal level; for the 1st time in our history we are watching a major political party use the legal system to attack its primary opponent.

- All 4 indictments are by Democrat District Attornies
- In Democrat controlled districts
- And accountable to a Justice Department controlled by Democrats
- Did I mention that the accused is a former POTUS? Or that the accused is also the leading candidate to oppose the current President?

Psalm 94:20-21 NLT

Can unjust leaders claim that God is on their side—leaders whose decrees permit injustice? They gang up against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.

3. This has never happened before in America; but it has been quite common in countries with totalitarian governments, where political opponents are commonly killed or imprisoned. One example is...

**Lavrentiy Beria
(1899-1953)**

Head of Stalin's Russian Secret Police, was a serial rapist and serial killer, responsible for the murder of 100's of 1000's of those considered to be enemies of the State.

In the 'Katyn Massacre' of 1939 alone, he ordered the execution of 22,000 Polish officers

Lavrentiy Beria

"Let our enemies know that anyone who attempts to raise a hand against the will of the party of Lenin and Stalin, will be mercilessly crushed and destroyed."

4. The same principle of persecution toward political enemies was perfected in places like Nazi Germany, Communist China, Syria and Iran.

Lavrentiy Beria

"Show me the man and I'll show you the crime."

5. In a totalitarian state, no one is safe; if they can come after a Donald Trump, they can come after you...and me.

C. Finally: We Must Defy the Tyrants Over the Issue of Who Owns the Children

1. The Bible clearly establishes the jurisdiction of parents over their own children; the 5th commandment is that children must honor their parents.

a. God gives children as a gift—not to the state—but to the parents.

Psalm 127:3

Children are a gift from the Lord and the fruit of the womb is His reward.

2. God gives the jurisdiction of a child's education to the parents—not the state.

Deuteronomy 6:6

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children...

Deuteronomy 11:18,21

Therefore, you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and...you shall teach them to your children...that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.

a. Solomon commands his son to educate his children...

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. (NKJV)

Teach a youth about the way he should go... (ASG)

3. But today, Christ is colliding with Caesare over who owns the children; consider these quotes...

President Joe Biden

There is no such thing as someone else's child—they are all our children.

a. When questioned about the comment, the President's press secretary, a gay lesbian who has no children, confirmed Biden's comment.

Ed Martin, The Eagle Forum

The White House Press Secretary has joined Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in reiterating the despicable lie that children don't belong to parents, but instead to the community and state itself.

4. The mainstream media has become complicit in this jurisdictional overreach...

Melissa Harris-Perry, MSNBC Host/Feminist

We have never invested as much in public education as we should have because we've always had a kind of private notion of children-that your kid is yours and totally your responsibility.

Melissa Harris-Perry, MSNBC Host/Feminist

We haven't had a very collective notion that these are *our* children. So, we kind of have to break through our kind of private idea that kids belong to their parents.

5. Christian parents who are perplexed about all this have been asleep at the wheel in their local public schools systems, where teacher's training today contains the philosophy of socialists like John R. Goodlad.

John R. Goodlad, "Education Renewal: Better Teachers, Better Schools"
Parents do not own their children. They have no 'natural right' to fully control their education.

a. Socialists like Goodlad see the public schools as places where the power of parents over their children must come to an end.

John R. Goodlad, "Education Renewal: Better Teachers, Better Schools"
Public education has served as a check on the power of parents, and this is a powerful reason for maintaining public education.

b. Goodlad-influenced public schools do not educate...they indoctrinate.

John R. Goodlad, "Education Renewal: Better Teachers, Better Schools"
Most youth still hold the same values as their parents. If we don't alter this pattern, if we don't socialize, our system will decay.

c. The casualty in this socialization of students is practical learning of the "3 R's"...and it is by design!

John R. Goodlad, "Education Renewal: Better Teachers, Better Schools"
A standardized curriculum of basic skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic cannot prepare people to participate in democracy. Enlightened social engineering is required to face situations that demand global action now.

6. The Communists are out of the closet in public education; yet many Christian parents remain clueless on the religious agenda of atheistic, Socialist educators like John L. Dunphy who see teachers as evangelists...

John J. Dunphy, Socialist

I am convinced that the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public-school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers of a new faith: a religion of humanity...

John J. Dunphy

These teachers must embody the same selfless dedication of the most rabid fundamentalist preacher, for they will be ministers of another sort, utilizing a classroom instead of a pulpit to convey humanist values in whatever subject they teach, regardless of the educational level—preschool, daycare, or large state university.

John J. Dunphy

The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new—the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with all its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism, resplendent in its promise of a world in which the never-realized Christian ideal of “love thy neighbor” will finally be achieved.

7. Most Christian parents have never heard of educated idiots like John Dunphy and John Goodlad; even though their tax dollars are paying their salaries; as well as the salaries of socialist politicians like California's Governor Gavin Newsom.

Governor Gavin Newsom

New legislation in California will charge parents who do not affirm their child's chosen gender-identity with child abuse. If convicted, the state will have the authority to remove the child from the home and prosecute the parents.
(And less you think I exaggerate the issue of the issue of who owns the children)

USA TODAY, January 13, 2022

California should abolish parenthood and turn over all children to the state in order to promote 'equity'.

8. Many clueless Christians still can't see the situation as the same way the Nazis looked at the children of Germany in the 1930's...

Joseph Goebbels

The youth belong to us and we will yield them to no one.

Adolf Hitler

“Our new Reich will give its youth to no one but will itself take the youth and give to youth its own education and its own upbringing.”

Adolf Hitler

He who owns the youth will control the future.

a. Hitler stole the youth right under the noses of the Christian church; 2/3 of Germany’s total population during the rise of Hitler were baptized Protestant Christians!

9. The same thing could happen here if we give up the ownership of our children.

Ed Martin, Eagle Forum

The leftists believe the state owns the children. That’s why they are working overtime across the country to completely erode and destroy parental involvement and consent from their kids, especially when it comes to transgender counseling and surgeries, or underage girls being pressured into abortions.

Ed Martin

This treachery is unconscionable, but it’s happening right now — don’t think your school is immune! When the government owns its people, there’s no room left for liberty. The Biden Administration needs to hear this message from We the Parents loud and clear: “NO!”

IV. Close

E

A. Review

1. Our theme has been, “Obey God-Defy Tyrants”; our text taken from...

Acts 5:19

But Peter and the other apostles answered...
"We ought to obey God rather than men."

Obedience to God will, sooner or later, require the defiance of tyrants.

(Why?) The nature of tyranny always forces the issue:
(There can be no neutrality) We will either obey God and defy tyrants;
Or we will obey tyrants and defy God.

Neutrality is impossible.

R.J. Rushdoony

The modern state does not hesitate to present itself, as Hegel described it, 'as God walking on earth'. It claims jurisdiction over Christ's church as lord and demands that we bow down and serve it as sovereign.

R.J. Rushdoony

The Christian resistance to the Roman government was based on the lordship or sovereignty of Christ: Christ's domain cannot be under the dominion of Caesar. Caesar is under the domain of Christ the Creator and Lord, not Christ under Caesar.

Closing Prayer

Title

"When Christ And Caesar Collide"