

Living as a Christian in a Fallen World.

Rom 13; 1 Pet 2.13-17

Part of our problem is this: "IN the world but not OF the world"

Both Paul and Peter give us a brief dissertation on living under authority; Rome...

READ Rom 13 and 1 Pet 2.13-17

Ways to engage Government. When to submit, when to resist. Actively and Passively.

HOW TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE AUTHORITY

VOTE. *What you saw two weeks ago was an act of legal civil disobedience.*

Over half of the electorate said, "We do not like the current Caesar." They won! We picked a New Caesar!

It's been happening for 248 years! And it will continue until Jesus comes back...

Our founding fathers programmed into the system the ability to throw out the king!

Created a method for civilians to legally remove a leader and replace him! Amazing! Astounding! The first civilization in human history!

While we were voting, all of the other countries still had kings & queens. That's why this is still called the American Experiment!

This is where we see the uniqueness of America...

Why so unique? Started before our birth:

1215 Magna Carta King is not above the church; humans have rights...

1620 Mayflower Compact The pilgrims left England...persecution by King James *who was writing the Bible!*

Do you see why our founding fathers did not want a state controlled church?

All this led to the greatest document in human history: *Constitution of the US.*

In 1776, a new document entered history that had never before been seen.

(I understand, all white men, some slave owners...taken years to work it out...yrs more!)

Representative democracy Equality Inalienable rights given by God

Separation of powers Civilian control of armed forces

Then in 1791, Bill of Rights...(unbelievable, unheard of, unprecedented)

Freedom of speech... press... religion... ...assemble petition the govt...

Fair/speedy trial by peers... Innocent until proven guilty... AND...

No other country has a 2nd Amendment encoded in DNA...allowing citizens to protect

All these things we have were unheard of for over 5000 years of human history.

Never forget that before 1776, *no such things as open voting for all citizens!*

If you are concerned about the recent election...

RELAX. OK.

Deep breath.

God is still in control!

If you are happy about the recent election...

RELAX. OK.

Deep breath.

God is still in control!

So you if you did not like the outcome of this election, don't worry, in two years you can:

Vote for a new Congress and shut it down!

and two years after that...do the same, and kick out the current King...

If you voted for Kamala, God is in control! If you voted for Trump, God is in control!

I will not blindly follow any president! I will only blindly follow Jesus. I only trust Jesus, my savior, my King!

Let God be true and every leader, every person, power, potentate be a liar!

If voting is not enough...

RUN FOR OFFICE (Get Involved) It's America...YOU CAN.

APPEAL TO AUTHORITY

Daniel appealed to Nebuchadnezzar

The widow appealed to the unjust judge

Paul appealed to Felix

Nathan confronted David

John stood before Herod

According to our Constitution, we have the right to petition the government. DO IT!

DEFY GOVERNMENT.

Pharaoh: Kill all male babies...But the midwives feared God, did not do as the king of Egypt

Peter wrote to the Christian Jews in the diaspora. Paul fled in a basket over the wall.

Peter disappeared after being freed from prison, Herod could not find him.

Remember the context of Romans and 1 Peter:

Paul was living in a time when there was no Constitution; no reps; no legal system.

You did note for Caesar, he was it, like it or not. No terms; no limits; he was god in flesh...

You had no other option but to submit. Not for 4 years, but for decades???

Paul: God is somehow in control, TRUST Him and do the best you can in a bad situation!

Peter: Honor all people (yes). Love the brotherhood (yes). Fear God (yes). Honor the king?

So what Paul AND Peter are saying is we must always strive to be good, peaceful citizens.

Be a benefit to the Babylon in which we live, be a blessing to Rome as much as possible.

Do not steal, kill, disobey laws. Drive the speed limit. Pay taxes.

Above all...trust in your heavenly Father who has it all under control!

But can we disobey a government? YES, ABSOLUTELY.

Paul, 13.3-4 ...the government is there for "good works" and "for our good."

Peter: Sent by God for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.

When a government ceases to be good, then it must be resisted and opposed.

We cannot submit to a government that requires what God forbids
or forbids what God requires.

If we are to blindly submit to whatever any gov't says, then HOW do you explain:

1776? (Godly episcopalians and Presbyterians rebelled to the point of bloodshed?)

Anti-Slavery and the Underground Railroad?

Suffragettes in the early 1900s?

Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights movement of 1964?

Do we say, "Well, God placed Adolf Hitler in power, so..." (Idi Amin; Pol Pot; Communism...)

Christians are the most defiant people on earth. We always have been, we always will be!

Allow me to show you a better way...**HOW TO PASSIVELY ENGAGE AUTHORITY**

PRAY:

Our father... Thy Kingdom come *on earth* Thy will be done *on earth*

And above all trust in your heavenly Father!

With Peter..."That we may lead quiet and peaceable lives."

And above all trust in your heavenly Father!

The heart of the King is in the...That God would change the heart of a leader, or stop it. And above all trust in your heavenly Father!

Because whoever the King is...I am going to trust that my Heavenly Father will supply...

MODEL YOUR LIFE AFTER CHRIST.

Do good, heal the sick, bless the poor, feed the hungry, save souls...

And above all TRUST in your heavenly Father!

Be a light set on a lampstand so all can see; do good deeds...

And above all TRUST in your heavenly Father!

Be His love extended to a lost world;

And above all TRUST in your heavenly Father!

There are still souls to save, abortions to stop, transgenders to save,

NO PRESIDENT will save ONE SOUL FROM HELL...***That's our job...***

Jesus did not tell the White House to go into all the world and preach the gospel...

Jesus did not tell congress to lay hands on the sick and see them recover...

Jesus did not tell the Supreme Court to disciple the nations

The democrats are not going to dedicate your child to Jesus

The republicans are not going to train up your children in the fear of the Lord

Congress is not going to send out missionaries

WH Chief of Staff is not going to baptize new converts

LIVE your life with a view toward eternity!

This is all passing away and the lust of it!

All these elements will some day melt with fervent heat.

This old earth will be renovated by fire and a new Earth is coming.

These old heavens will be rolled back as a scroll and a new heavens will dawn

And in that new heaven//new Earth will be righteousness and justice forever.

The Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout with the voice of the archangel

The trump of God will sound AND we will be changed from CORruptible to INCORruptible

We will be transformed from mortal to immortal

and we will judge the universe age without end!

Won't you feel silly if you got lost in CNN and Fox and missed everything God is doing?

Won't you feel silly if you were consumed by some petty politician?

Won't you feel silly "set your mind on earthly things" and missed the authority of Christ in your life?

Colossians 3:1-4

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body,

according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

CONCL:

Be good citizens...but never forget who you are!

Pilgrims and sojourners...