

Purpose of Government, Posture of The Church

Romans 13:1-5

Purpose of Government

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(1-2) An Overseeing Authority

John 19:10-11a Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.

Authorities that exist are appointed by God

Psalm 75:6-7 For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another.

Titus 3:1-2 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

1 Peter 2:17 Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

Surrendered to Authority

Surrender vs. Resisting

Surrender: to yield, to arrange in order

Resist: To oppose, to line up for battle against

Come under the law - Or be judged and punished by it

Romans 13:3-5 An Overseeing Authority An Upright Authority (Virtue)

Qualifier: Rulers are not a terror to good works but to evil.

He is God's ministers for good. (The way a doctor or nurse administers aid)

Isaiah wrote, "**For the Lord is our judge (Judicial), the Lord is our lawgiver (Legislative), the Lord is our king (Executive); He will save us**" - Isaiah 33:22

He does not bear the sword in vain (ineffective or hollowness)

An avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

Evil in society is to be put in check and punished when necessary.

Purpose of the Government

Posture of the Church

Dual Citizenship – Support and Steward our government (not blindly)

We want to support those in authority.

We have been given a responsibility to oversee those in authority.

A government that is of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Ownership without arrogance

Our firetruck, our military, our city officials, our congress, our senate, our president. An overseeing government is overseen by its governing documents (**Constitution**)
A government that is of the people, by the people, and for the people.

When it's time to go against the authority

Acts 4:18-20 So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 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. "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

When it's time to go against the authority

1940's Germany, would you turn in your Jewish neighbor?

Romans 12:7-8 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

John Adams

On April 18, 1775, a British soldier ordered John Adams, John Hancock, and others to "disperse in the name of George the Sovereign King of England.

Adams responded to him:

"We recognize no sovereign but God, and no king but Jesus!"

(38 years later) In a letter to Thomas Jefferson dated June 28, 1813, John Adams said; *"The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity"*

PRAY AND SAY!!!

Salt and light (The preserving and exposing power of God in this present time)

Ephesians 5:10-11 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

"A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit" – an ancient Greek proverb?

Proverbs 31:9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

(for the next generation)

Think of Daniel and the Lions Den

The unrighteous tried to set up and silence the righteous

The righteous did not comply with ungodly rules

The unrighteous got caught in their own ploy

In order for the unrighteous to be exposed and expelled, the righteous had to be pushed and had to stay planted.

Place of the church

Support – Speak – Steward

Declaration of Independence is actually a collection of sermon topics preached in colonial churches.

Sermon Topics – David Barton

- Public Worship of God
- Taxes and a repeal (Good and bad taxes)
- Election sermons
- Civil liberty – serve your country
- Executions In the news it was in the pulpit
- Artillery Sermon – once a year (John the Baptist)
- Marriage Law passed by the legislature
- The Christian Patriot – Duel Citizenship

Clergy During the Revolution

- Taking troops into battle
- Ministering to wounded
- Taking News Flashes into community
- Writing State constitutions and governing documents
- Serving in congress and state legislatures

Separation of church and state (No such thing... no state run religion.)

John Adams “The pulpits have thundered”

Black Robe Regiment

- Israel Evans
- John Witherspoon
- John Murray
- Richard Allen
- Absalom Jones
- Ezra Stiles
- William Smith

Purpose of the Government

Posture of the Church

The Pulpits of America

If your watchmen are afraid, sleeping, or distracted the civilization pays the price

Ezekiel 33:3-6 when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his *own* head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes *any* person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.'

Reverend Charles Finney – Leader of the 2nd great awakening

If immorality prevails in the land, the fault is ours in a great degree.

- If there is a decay of conscience, the pulpit is responsible for it.
- If the public press lacks moral discrimination, the pulpit is responsible for it.
- If the church is degenerate and worldly, the pulpit is responsible for it.
- If the world loses its interest in religion, the pulpit is responsible for it
- If Satan rules in our halls of legislation, the pulpit is responsible for it
- If our politics become so corrupt that the very foundations of our government are ready to fall away, the pulpit is responsible for it.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

John the Baptist: not shaken like a reed
Johnson Amendment

*If you don't influence and impact the government, the government will impact you.
"The servant of the Lord is expected to steward the things of God."*

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Posture of the Church

The Pulpits of America

Position of our Country

Deception, Desperation, & Division (Pray we go from divided to united)

Matthew 12:25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.

James & 1 Peter - God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Steward & Speak

With the heart and mind of Christ.

If you do not have the HEART of Christ, do not try to speak FOR Christ.

You can miss represent Christ in your silence

You can miss represent Christ in your speaking

Trump the person vs. Trump the president

You are the light of the world – do not hide!

You are the salt of the earth – there is no backup plan

You are secure in our King!