

Couple of weeks ago there was a huge discussion in the Christian world about what is appropriate and what is not appropriate as it relates to a Christians role in politics. It came about because Jerry Falwell Jr. came out out and endorsed D. Trump Internet blew up Some were yes...some were no! Some were that is out of bounds Zero interest in telling you who to vote for

Today I DO want to talk with you about a Christian's role in the political world!

Continue our Series: "Living Up In A Down World"

Remember our premise: Living Up In A Down World: Three-fold: All related

- Personal Priorities: Get our "Is" rearranged to the "Should"
- Witness to Others: Maintain our distinctive differences from the world in which we live
- Cultural Impact: Have a positive spiritual impact on a world that has run amuck, totally out of control!

1. Jeremiah Gives Us The "Big Picture!"

Jer 29:4-10

Remember the background: Captivity: Ripped from Home; False Gods, False Worship; No hope of Return

- Live your life completely in whatever place God allows you to be
- Seek Peace and Prosperity of that place Seek: Lit= Work for; Seek out; Pursue; Do all you can
Peace and Prosperity: Lit= Shalom: Peace, Contentment, Wellbeing
- Pray for that place: Intercede for it, ask God to bless it; Do all you can (Because if they have peace...so do you!)

2. Jesus Shows Us The Attitude We Are To Cultivate.

Mt 22:17-21 pg

- Give Caesar what belongs to Caesar! (Specifically, Pay Your taxes!)
- But, it is bigger than just paying taxes
- Jesus is saying, Recognize the government for what it is...an instrument of God to be honored and obeyed

How can that be? Jesus is talking about the very Gov that would soon put him to death! And YES, Exactly

3. Paul Tells Us How And Why We Are To Live Out That Attitude.

Rom 13:1-7

- Why We Have That Attitude:
~Government is appointed; arranged; determined; Ordained by God!
~When you are opposed to (stand in opposition to/rebel) then you are rebelling against God
~Because Government is there to provide order, and God wants order, not anarchy
~Government provides accountability for those who do wrong
~It is spiritually, morally and ethically the right thing to do! (Conscience sake!) vs 5
- How We Live Out Our Attitude to Government
~Submit to Government: Lit = *to voluntarily place yourself under the direction of another (Nero)*
~Honor them: Lit = *to hold them in esteem; to look up to, to value (way we talk)*
~Pay your taxes! Lit = Personal Property (Census) Sales Tax!!
- How We Live Out That Attitude To God
~Pray for those in authority! 1 Tim 2:1-2
All different kinds of prayers, including giving thanks!
So we can live peaceful and quiet lives in Godliness and holiness
So we can please God!

4. Peter Takes The Entire Concept To An Entirely New and Higher Level!

1 Peter 2:11-17

- As "aliens and strangers" be a TESTIMONY to the world around you! (Distinctively different)
- As "aliens and strangers be a WITNESS to the government (Model citizens)
- As servants of God be those who obey Him even when it is hard! (Nero; Roman Govt)

So does all of this mean that you can NEVER be disobedient? NO, not at all

5. Understand the ONE Time When It Is Acceptable To Be Disobedient To Authority.

We are allowed to be disobedient to authority in our lives when that authority EXPLICITLY demands that we do something that God EXPLICITLY prohibits!

- Peter/John Acts 4:1-18 Arrest/Prison/Command/ "Do not preach or teach in the name of Jesus" Go and preach
- Daniel: Dan 6:10 Don't pray: When he heard it was signed, went and prayed 3x just as always!
- SMA Dan Worship Golden Image: NO! Have no other Gods, Worship God only

ILLUS: When your Boss comes and says; Fudge those reports; If the Gov says, you MUST NOT WITNESS; Someone REQUIRES you to say or do something that is NOT true or morally right, then you can be disobedient THEN you may disobey...

CONCL:

How Do We Live UP in a DOWN World?

How DO We Live in such a way that we are a WITNESS?

How Do We Live so differently, so clearly light in the darkness that others see and Glorify God?

- **Honor the Government**
- **Speak Well of the Government**
- **Be A Model Citizen: Pay your Taxes; Go out to Vote; Be Involved**
- **Be a Clear Testimony in the way that you live to the Goodness and Glory of God**
- **Seek the Peace and prosperity: CityServe!
Food Pantry
Tyler Heights**