

VI. Laws of Divine Establishment and the Royal Family Honor Code: Every Human Institution

God will never permit human solutions to resolve the problems of life.

Because you are misjudged by unbelievers is no reason to assume you are wrong or that you are not a good witness for Christ.

The truth will win out at the Great White Throne Judgment when unbelievers will be faced with the reality of their error while your good works will glorify God.

Peter now begins to mention some of the manifestations of Christian integrity which define the believer's relationship to the state.

1 Peter 2:13 - Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

1 Peter 2:14 - or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

Please note that this mandate does not offer any exceptions in this context.

We are to obey the authorities of every human institution. Even though they think they are supreme they are not but we submit to them as if they were.

Such submission is not passivism. Passivism indicates deliberate submissiveness. We do not submit to the authority of human viewpoint because we agree with it or don't care.

Neither is it abjectness which indicates a mental attitude of hopelessness and resignation. It is because of our confidence that truth will prevail under the justice of God that we endure indignation.

Submission to unjust authority does not imply capitulation. Capitulation means to end resistance due to hopelessness in the face of an irresistible opposing force. We have the plenipotentiary power to stand fast in the evil day.

And finally, submission is not complicity. Complicity indicates willing association and partnership in a wrongful or evil action. The mandate from God never orders us to participate in the development of evil laws, only to submit to them.

As ambassadors for Christ our mission is to attempt to save a few from the assured demise of the Devil's world, and to encourage those who respond to grow spiritually.

We do not have license to whitewash the Devil's world through Christian reform. Satan opposes truth. Whenever truth is imposed by law, forces gather to denounce it.

Whereas our nation is founded on establishment truth, it is not a surprise that evil forces now seek to dismantle it.

Knowing this, we must suffer intrusive government. This prohibits, discontent, argumentation, sedition, civil disobedience, insurrection, and revolt.

Why are we asked to accept this without resistance? *"For Jesus' sake."*

This mandate is also applicable to subordinates as is brought out in 1 Peter 2:14.

According to human law, those things which are right and wrong are determined by human reasoning.

Consequently, the law you are asked to obey is a moral code determined by a society made up of both unbelievers than believers.

The church, and believers as special interest groups, are not allowed to seek to impose upon this moral code Christian doctrines.

The individual believer may seek to influence the state in ways which are agreeable to the commonwealth.

This includes communicating with elected representatives, by voting, and engaging in public and private debate.

If this influence is rejected by the majority of the population, then the believer is mandated to submit to the evils of his day. This is said to be the will of God in:

1 Peter 2:15 - For such is the will of God in order that by doing what is right we silence the ignorant accusations of foolish men.

Nothing of substance can be said by the unbeliever about a Christian who obeys the law.

Submission to human authority and human law is therefore the duty of the believer.

Thus, if persecutions follow, they are directed upon the believer because of his faith not because of his actions in opposition to society.

Refusal to obey a law must be a decision made personally and individually and must be the result of being required by law to violate an inflexible biblical principle.

This is extremely rare at this stage of our nation's history and therefore we are to:

1 Peter 2:16 - Act as free men, and not use our freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves to God.

Bondslaves submit to the orders given by their masters. Our Master has instructed us to:

1 Peter 2:17 - Honor your fellow citizen, love your fellow believer, revere God, honor the king.