

A sunset over a desert landscape with a winding road. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and the desert floor. The clouds are illuminated from below, creating a dramatic effect. In the foreground, a paved road with a dashed white line curves through the landscape, flanked by yellow markers. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

IN THE WORLD NOT OF THE WORLD

1 Peter 2:11-17

Government?

Philippians 3:18-20 Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. BUT our citizenship (thoughts, loyalty, motivation) is in heaven. We eagerly await a Savior from there...

1 Peter 1:17, 2:11 Live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear... I urge you as aliens and strangers in the world to abstain from sinful desires...

PRINCIPLE

- COOPERATION as long as there is no

CONTRADICTION

- PARTICIPATION as long as conscience and faith are not overridden.

Romans 13:1-2 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Romans 13:6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

1 Cor. 14:33 For God is not a God
of disorder but of peace.

Since God is a God of ORDER,
a Christian cannot be an anarchist.
We must thankfully accept the role
of government and pray for its success
and its pursuit of righteous goals.

The Christian should **submit** to a government's laws as long as such laws distinguish and define right from wrong on God's terms.

Titus 3:1 Be subject to rulers and authorities, be obedient and be ready to do whatever is good. **Romans 13:3-4**

Do what is right and he [ruler] will commend you. He is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid... He is God's servant, and agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

But GOVERNMENTS are sometimes wretched, run by a brutal despot, perpetrating evil, persecuting its righteous people, defying and denying God's moral absolutes.

A Christians' loyalty to government is always **conditional**. We cannot endorse or abet evil simply because it is urged or expected by government.

“We must obey God rather than men”!

(Acts 6:29)

Protest or civil disobedience is a Christian response to ungodly government.

“But there are some who pay no attention to you, O King. They will not serve your gods nor bow before the image of gold you have set up!” *(Daniel 3:12)*

Prison or martyrdom is preferable to the Christian over disobedience to God in order to **please** a **government**.

“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.

They did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. **(Revelations 12:11)**

Governance based upon Christian principles is admirable and worth great effort and support. However, God has never intended to build or preserve his Kingdom through human government.

“My Kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight.” *Jesus (John 18:36)*

1 Peter 2:16-17 Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover up for evil. Live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone. Love the brotherhood of believers. Fear God. Honor the King.

As humans... be free

As Christians... be servants

- LOVE the church
- FEAR God
- HONOR the King

- We are in the world... so, we honor (not fear) the King.
- We are not of the world... so, our highest accountability is not the King.