

"What Belongs to Who?"

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March 20, 2022

How does the Christian respond to a government that is increasingly hostile to Christian faith and to the Word of God?

Texts: Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17

Text: Acts 4:8-12, 17-18

Did Peter and John obey? (Acts 4:19-20; 27-29) _____

Text: Acts 5:12-16, 18-28

The Apostles were arrested and put in jail.

They were set free by an angel from God, who told them to spread the good news of Jesus. They were rounded up and brought before the authorities. They told those authorities: "We must obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29

Jesus in Matthew 22:21 "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

To whom does the Word of God belong?

Text: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Is the Bible a book of love, or a book of hate? _____

God is in the forgiveness business. God is in the business life-changing.

Christians are not to encourage sinners, we are to love them so much we want them to go to heaven!

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."

(2 Corinthians 9:15)

The Word of God belongs to God, not the government.

To whom does marriage belong?

Jesus said, "What God has joined together, let man not separate." (Matthew 19:6)

You have to have a license to be "legally" married, but do you have to have a license from the state in order to be married in the eyes of God?

God instituted marriage! But humans want to regulate it! All US states accept gay marriage. Does that make it right?

But shouldn't we as Christians obey the laws of our state? Shouldn't we follow Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2?

"Rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong, ... He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer."
(Romans 13:3-4; also see similar in 1 Peter 2:13-14).

"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20).

Will we obey fallible men or the infallible God?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: *The Cost of Discipleship* and *Prisoner for God: Letters and Papers from Prison*

Philippians 3:20

"Our citizenship is in heaven."

My primary allegiance is to the kingdom of God.

Let's give to God what belongs to God!