

Christ Community Covenant Church

Authority in Government

Pastor Curt Vogt - July 28, 2013

Intro: Comment on "Authority" series at 4Cs

Set up: If we're citizens of a heavenly kingdom, what do we have to do with human governments?

Scripture Passages – 1 Peter 2:11-17 and Romans 13:1-7

*We really must submit to government authority for 3 reasons:

- 1) God established/ordained government authorities – they are His idea and design; order, structure
Submitting to government reflects our submitting to God
- 2) There are consequences for not submitting to government – both from government and God
Power has been given to governments to punish ("sword")
This is outward, "lower level" reason
- 3) As a matter of conscience
You know it is right; show the world around us that Christians know how to act
This is inward, "higher level" reason

Not the whole story.... Too simple?... Aren't there exceptions?

Reminder of the government of Paul and Peter – "We must obey God rather than man."

Dealing with exceptions to submitting to government is emotionally charged (illustration on screen)

My story – Intentionally moderate, truth is found in the middle, balance

There are exceptions to submitting to government – keep in mind these cautions:

- Make sure you're really obeying God – check the Bible!
- Make sure you're not breaking other laws of God
- Make sure the attention is in the right place – on God
- Check your attitude – respect the authority and accept consequences of disobedience
- Remember following Christ involves suffering
- Remember God is sovereign

3 examples from the Bible: Peter and the Apostles; Three in Fiery Furnace; Daniel

This is not exhaustive; maybe this sparks further thinking and dialogue

Governmental authority is of God and must be treated as such