

## CIVIL OBEDIENCE AND DISOBEDIENCE OR HOW TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN

### I. Be Obedient *that is a command*

1. Pray, 1 Tim. 2:1-2. Petitions, prayers, intercessions, thanks for all, for authorities so that lead quiet and peaceable life (so won't want to disobey or revolt) with piety or godliness and dignity or gravity or decorum (on part of those who are governed so can witness).

2. Pay, (1) taxes and customs as X in Mark 12:17; (2) fear and honor.

3. Obey. Rom 13:1= Tit 3:1= 1 Pet 2:13. Put in rank under, submit. Rom--govt ordained of God and not just certain forms of govt., 1; resistance is ag God, 2; govt generally opposes evil, 4; conscience says do, 5. "Nero was incapable of learning cruelty." No exceptions to justify disobey. in this passage. This is norm.

Tit 3. P imprisoned in Philippi, Caesarea, Rome. Nero plunged into dissipation and bankruptcy.

1 Pet. Now burned Rome and blamed Xns. Persecution started in Rome and began to spread. If Peter in Rome (Babylon) makes his teaching more significant. Eventually martyred. Reasons: govt keeps evil restrained, 14; will of God, 15; doing good silences false accusations ag Xns, 15.

### II. Be Disobedient sometimes under some circumstances *Disobed is an exception* *Exception*

When God's laws and civil laws conflict. When God's rights, not mine, are violated. Dan 3, fiery furnace, esp v. 18. Dan 6 lion's den. Maybe God will intervene and deliver; maybe not, Heb 11:35-37. Acts 5:29-Sanhedrin had political power as well as religious. Acts 16:37 sit in.

Sometimes don't need to violate God's laws to protest. God says pray. Is that violated if cannot pray out loud in school? Does sit in in front of abortion clinics have to be where access blocked or could it be as effective and lawful if not blocking access? Sometimes keep still and let godliness be testimony-X's example, 1 Pet 2:23. Sometimes leave judgment to God and pay attention to purity of local church, 1 Cor. 5:12-13.

*Involvement has options*

III. Be Involved How? And what priorities? *options*

1. By personal righteousness. Prov 14:34. Xlikeness. Godliness.
2. Witness. Direct. Diff life. Prayer. *Do good Rom 13:3, Tit 3:1, 1 Pet 2:15*
3. Building local church. Exhortation, doing good, praying, attending, giving.
4. Cultivate generous and simplified lifestyle so can give more support to Lord's work.
5. Campaign in civic realm. Vote. Did you last week? Letters. Legal protest by those qualified. Political office like Joseph in Egypt, Daniel in Babylon, Mordecai in Persia, Cornelius in Rome, Eunuch in Ethiopia, Sergius Paul in Cyprus, jailer in Philippi., Erastus, city treasurer. Don't ever let proper campaigning divert you from higher priorities. And don't place hope in Xnizing US. Helms and Hatfield. Carnal Xns.