

*When is it ever right to disobey gov't or parents*

Now this is a very good question and not always an easy one to answer. Of course, there is a very obvious answer to the question, "What if they order you to sin?" As a Christian, you cannot sin. So if a government or parents order you to sin, then you have to obey God rather than the government or parents. But sometimes there are grey areas which a government or parents may expect something of children or citizens which isn't clearly sin but which isn't something that a Christian may want to do. There is no question but that the Bible teaches that we should obey the government. There is no question but that the Bible teaches that Christian children should obey their Christian parents. I'm thinking of Ephesians 6 where it says "Children obey your parents in the Lord." I'm convinced there that Paul is talking about a Christian home. Paul is not trying to answer all the questions that come when you have Christian children in unsaved homes or where you have a mixed marriage among the parents, where one parent is a believer and one is not. He's talking about the situation where there is a Christian home, Christian mother and father, and the children are being reared in that home. In that case, Paul says, "Children obey your parents" as long as you're members of that household. Now, presumably, Christian parents would never order their children to sin. But, of course, Christians can get backslidden and sometimes that happens, in which case, a Christian simply cannot obey. He must not sin against God if it's a clear cut case of disobeying God. On the other hand, he should obey his parents if they are believers and he is a member of that household. There always comes a time in a young person's life where he becomes his own household either by being married or by moving out and establishing his own residence. In that case then, he becomes the authority and responsible directly to God, although we never lose our responsibility to parents and I would caution a young person never to lose contact with his parents even though they are unsaved, even though they are against him, because perhaps you're the only one who can reach them for Christ. So, don't ever lose the contact. They are your parents and they are people who need help, the kind of help that maybe you alone can give them. Now, in the Bible we have some examples of Godly people who were required to disobey the government. Of course, the classic one is in the third chapter of Daniel where Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were ordered to worship the image that the king had made and they came to the king and said, "We can't do it because we worship God and we will stake our lives on it. We know God can deliver us, but if he doesn't, we still won't worship." And of course, if we make an exception to government and disobey it, there is no guarantee that we won't be punished, but nevertheless, we must make the exception. Perhaps it is all summarized well in the fifth chapter of Acts, verse 29 where the apostles said, We must obey God rather than man, and this is the Christian's primary responsibility.