

The Red Line of the Government

(A Message Addressed to Men)

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When do believer's draw the line in the sand and say, "Enough is enough. I am not going to obey the government in this specific area and for this reason?" Where is that line? Where is the red line that the government should not cross? What is the limit beyond which the government's behavior and mandates can no longer be obeyed by the Christian community? Where is the moral or ethical red line? In other words, when should we NOT follow the demands and mandates of the government? Is there a Biblical basis for not following the government?

There are two important matters that need to be considered when reflecting on this topic.

I. Submission to Government Authority

Let's begin with Romans 13:1-3:

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers (*authorities*). For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance (*arrangement*) of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation (*judgment or punishment for breaking these ordinances*). For rulers are not a terror to good works (*God's plan for government is to honor exemplary living*), but to the evil (*those who break their laws*). Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good (*if we follow the established governmental laws and ordinances – don't speed, cheat on your taxes, and rob banks*), and thou shalt have praise of the same" (*praise of the authority and leaders that reside over us*).

This text reminds us that God in His sovereignty and the working of His providence establishes governments, even ruthless dictators ("For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained by God").

Daniel 2:21 declares:

“And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.”

Daniel 4:17 also reveals: “that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.” This is certainly reflective of today. Presently, we have a leader who has no moral or ethical basis and those who are really running our government are evil people without ethical standards (some of them are outright perverts) and yet God for His own purposes and reasons has allowed them to exist, rule, and be in power.

Even during the reign of evil rulers, we are to submit to governmental authority. Paul was writing during the reign of Nero the Roman Emperor. These were dark days for Christians. Nero blamed the Christians for a fire which destroyed half the city of Rome and which he himself may have ordered. He caused some believers to be immersed in tar, then ignited as living torches to provide illumination for his orgies. Others were sewn up in animal skins, then thrown to ferocious dogs to be torn to pieces.

But here is Paul’s point. In every ordered society there must be some kind of authority and submission to that authority. Otherwise, you have a state of total anarchy, and nobody can survive indefinitely under anarchy.

I’m afraid even our present-day leaders don’t grasp the reality of this with their open borders, which by the way are destroying our country as I speak! No nation can survive indefinitely with total anarchy (disorder), and this is one reason God has established government.

Someone remarked:

“Because of the moral depravity and utter wickedness of men, any government is better than no government.”

There may be some truth to this. Of course, this does not excuse Iranian governments that torture people or even our present government who is deliberately wrecking our country. But because of the depravity of man government is necessary to keep a certain amount of evil in check. We can be sure

that God in the working of His dispensational purposes has instituted human government (Gen. 9:6), and no government exists apart from His will. Again, this does not mean that God necessarily approves of all that human rulers do. He certainly does not approve of corruption, communism, brutality, tyranny, and terrorism! But the fact remains that the authorities that exist are in the grand scheme of things appointed by God to bring about His own sovereign purposes. We cannot get away from this Biblical fact.

Romans 13:4 continues to say:

“For he (*the governmental leader and authority*) is the minister of God to thee for good (*by keeping evil in check to a certain degree and not creating total anarchy*). But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil.”

The Bible also gives the government and rulers the authority to punish evildoers. Government has the right in the proper circumstances to impose capital punishment as well as to wage war (a just war) to protect itself from those who oppose a country.

So Paul is teaching that all governments that exist (past, present and future) are ordained of God in accordance with His providence, whether they are good or bad. Nevertheless, just because a government is ordained by God does not mean He approves of the evil atrocities that corrupt regimes do such as the ancient Assyrians, Stalin, Hamas, Hitler or any government that allows babies to be murdered and openly glorifies sex changes on children.

Some suggest that Romans 13:4 teaches we should only obey government when it does everything that is right and good for the people. If the government is not good to the people, then they have a right to disobey and revolt against the government. But this is not what the Bible is teaching here. Even though a government may be corrupt in various ways, it is still ordained by God and is “good” in the sense that it keeps a certain amount of evil in check and stops total anarchy and rebellion from occurring. In fact, Christians who are not submissive in following its decrees and paying taxes should fear. This is because the government has received the power to punish those who disobey its authority and enforce laws.

Romans 13:6-7

“For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute [is due]; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.”

In other words, pay your taxes! I was not really surprised when my spring and fall taxes were raised this past year. I began talking to my wife about it and kept talking to my wife about it and she finally said, “Why don't you stop moping about it and just pay them. You cannot do anything about it. We need to trust God.”

Don't you like it when your wife preaches to you! Sometimes we need it. In fact, sometimes we need to be hit on the head. I remember being worried about the church offerings. The giving was getting pretty slim, and it was starting to get to me. I walked down into my basement (I have an older basement with low and large wooden beams, and I hit my head on one of those low hanging beams. I thought to myself, “Well thank you Lord, I needed that!” Sometimes we need to be jolted out of our pity parties and face the reality as a man and deal with life from a greater spiritual perspective.

Of course, we know that government authorities sometimes abuse their powers for selfish ends. If they do serve the welfare of the people as they should, it's easy to submit to them. But what if they are generally evil? The Bible is teaching that no matter who is in power, no matter what form of government, the leader and government is a “minister of God” (Rom. 13:4) and “ministers” (Rom. 13: 6) in the sense that God in His sovereignty ordained the power to exist at a particular time, in a specific nation, during a certain phase in history (Dan. 4:32).

Romans 13:5 says:

“Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.”

In other words, believers (God's saints) must obey imperfect governments not only because it is their civic duty, but because it is their spiritual duty before God. If they do not, their conscience will become offended for being disobedient to God's mandate for Christians to obey those in authority. The conscience of a Christian as

it aligns with God's truth refers to the believer's knowledge of God's will and purposes.

1 Peter 2:13-14 gives a similar command:

"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well."

This Biblical mandate reminds us again of submitting to those powers that are in authority over us "for the Lord's sake" which means for our Christian testimony as we represent Jesus Christ and His righteous ways in a fallen world of moral corruption and sin. Christian compliance to law may in some measure bring praise from those in authority. But more importantly than this, it always brings praise from God!

Titus 3:1-2 also declares:

"Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, *but* gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men."

We are once again commanded to subject or submit ourselves to those powers that be, which are leading and directing a country. This would mean to submit to those laws, whether we like them or not, which do not override Biblical mandates and ethics.

One pastor writes:

"The only qualification that would dictate our refusal to submit to any ordinances of civil government would be that such a law would REQUIRE us to violate the Word of God. But not liking a law on the basis of political preference would not be sufficient reason for a Christian to refuse to submit to that law."

Just because I don't like a certain local or federal law does not mean I can disobey it. There may be many things I don't like about government (locally or federally) whether it pertains to excessive taxes, zoning laws, various forms of overreach and interference in our lives where the government should not be allowed. But despite these inconveniences, we must obey the government.

Obeying the government is not like going to Shady Maple Smorgasbord where we can pick and choose what we like or dislike! I don't believe in religious ecumenicalism but I do believe in ecumenical eating at Shady Maple. The point is this. We cannot pick and choose what laws to obey based upon our likes and dislikes!

When the civil law does NOT cross over any red line, the Christian must obey it if he is to maintain a good conscience toward God and the truth of submission (Rom. 13:5; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19; 3:9; 4:2; Acts 24:16). Again, we certainly are not always going to agree with all the laws established by those in authority, but if these laws do not cross any red line, which keep us from living for God and obeying him, then we must obey the laws. All of us as Christians must carefully distinguish between civil laws that REQUIRE us to disobey God's Word and those that seem to be unacceptable to our own personal ideas and preferences. God expects us to submit to legislative laws which may not be according to our way of thinking. Of course, we must be careful not to confuse submission with silence. Silence can express approval of a government's unethical practices.

This brings up another question: How far can we push Christian morality (legislatively) in a secular society? During the colonial days, some states punished people who traveled on Sunday. We must remember that sharing the Gospel is our main focus and objective but electing officials who will enact laws or appoint judges in line with Christian values is also important. The church should not be afraid to educate and confront the state on matters of morality and justice. Our voices must continue to be heard on both a local and federal level even though they are trying to shut down any voice that they don't agree with.

Jesus taught in Matthew 5:13 that we are to be "the salt of the earth" and in Matthew 5:14 he said "Ye are the light of the world." This certainly would mean that we can counter unethical practices being promoted by the government and make our voices known.

M. R. Dehaan once said:

"There are times in one's life when silence is not a virtue, and failure to speak out against an evil becomes a sin."

The other week I was leading in prayer during a church service. One of the ushers said a visitor came in late and was waiting in the foyer until I was finished praying. I'm not sure what I was exactly saying but something like God would grant our freedoms from dictators and evildoers which are trying to silence our speech in this country. The ushers said as soon as the man heard me pray this, he walked out of the church. You know, some Christians seem to think that we should never say anything against the government, and never oppose its ideologies and ludicrous Marxist overreaches. They don't get this weak and milk toast mentality from the Bible! As we are about to see, Christians are to obey God's Word over man's mandates or dictates. We get our spiritual commands from the throne of God and the Bible – not from the radicalized form of government in Washington D.C.

Salt and light mean that Christians should be a moral light and possess an ethical influence on government and not turn a blind eye to its many unethical and untoward practices. However, Christians can do this without disobeying the government's laws which they might not like or prefer, and which seem unfair to them.

Christians can also be a moral light and have an ethical influence on society without imbibing the false teaching of postmillennialism or the more modern form of this teaching which is labeled Dominion Theology. Dominion Theology teaches that the Church will Christianize the entire world and then the King (Jesus) will return to earth. Essentially, it's the job of the church to bring in the kingdom – not the King (Jesus Christ). This is also called "Reconstructionism," and "Theonomy" which is the repackaging of postmillennialism. The idea is taught that the Church is going to reconstruct society and take dominion of the world, through instituting God's Old Testament Law on society, and then Jesus Christ comes back to earth to start eternity.

Those who embrace this "kingdom now theology" are living in a dreamworld. God has called us to be salt and light, but Satan is the ruler of this world (age), and this means the Church will never rule it through Christian mandates and overtaking the earth with righteousness.

Daniel 7:27

"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints (not established by them)

of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”

Bringing in perfect righteousness will be the job of the returning King someday who is Jesus Christ. You cannot have a kingdom without a King! The point is this, we are to stand morally and ethically strong, but God has NOT called us to overtake the earth. We are to be submissive to government even though we don't like everything government is doing.

The Christians being instructed in Paul's day certainly understood this. The Roman government was unfair to its citizens by overtaxing them (like our modern IRS). The tax collectors were despised for pocketing money. Tax collectors amassed personal wealth by demanding tax payments in excess of what Rome levied and keeping the difference. They would say, "50 dollars more me and 50 for the government (Ceasar)." but Jesus taught that His followers were to pay their taxes to Caesar and also give to God (Luke 20:25). So, obedience was expected even when laws seemed to be unfair.

We have been blessed for many years to live in a constitutional republic which today is rapidly disappearing. By the way, a constitutional democracy must always be framed within the parameters and context of a constitutional republic which is a system or form of government where leaders represent the people, where power resides within the people through elected officials, who follow the laws of the formal Constitution and Bill of Rights. Of course, we are getting further and further away from this today! But if we would NOT LIVE in any kind of constitutional republic (and many Christians do not) they must distinguish between what freedoms are God given and which ones are simply a nuisance and obey the government even through it may be a rogue government.

I'm not sure if we can keep our republic if things keep moving in the present direction. Maybe we have lost it already. The trajectory is downward!

Benjamin Franklin's response to Elizabeth Willing Powel's question: "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy? "A republic, if you can keep it."

The founders realized that the form of government they established is fragile and lapses easily into tyranny. He and his colleagues all had a classical education and knew very well that this had happened centuries before, in Greece and Rome.

II. Disobeying Governmental Authority

Where is the red line? When do we say, “Enough is enough.” There is a time when government mandates are no longer acceptable to the Christian way of life and the obedience and testimony we are to have before God.

Where do we as Christians and men who have families draw the line and say, “We will not follow this government mandate.” When do we have the right to disobey the government? As Christians we have certain Scriptural mandates that override (trump) government mandates. The Bible and obedience to God must come before the government.

I want to mention five red lines that the government should never cross.

1. The red line of evangelism.

Peter and John were brought before the Sanhedrin who were the authorities and rulers of Israel, the supreme court and administrative body of the Jews, which consisted of 71 members, including the high priest. The charge was that they were preaching Jesus and the resurrection (Acts 4:2). This case reveals an important principle about obeying God over a religious hierarchy or any form of civil government. Christian must obey God rather than man. This certainly applies to the area of evangelism or witnessing to the unsaved and sharing our faith in Christ with others.

Acts 4:13-20

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them *is* manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny *it*. But that it

spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

Acts 4:13 says “they had been with Jesus.” Of course, they were with him physically, but we need to show others that we have been with Jesus in our morning devotions, that we are walking with Him and obeying Him! Men, have you been following Jesus? Have you been sticking with Him and allowing Him to be lord over your life. We are going to be whipped puppies in this world unless we commit our lives to Jesus Christ and walk with Him, obey Him, and live for Him.

Acts 4:20 is the reply to the council:

“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

“We will not be silenced!” Peter and John recognized that there was a proper place for civil disobedience. They realized that their first loyalty and responsibility was to obey God – not man. They had seen the resurrected Christ. There was no turning back! They would continue to be a witness for Jesus Christ in spite of the edicts to stop witnessing. So when the laws and decrees of human government make it illegal to obey God and be a witness for Jesus Christ, we as Christians must refuse to submit.

Later, after ministering, Peter and all the apostles were arrested (Acts 5:17) but miraculously delivered by an angel (Acts 5:19) and eventually brought before the council.

Acts 5:27-29 picks up the historical narrative:

“And when they had brought them, they set *them* before the council: and the high priest asked them. Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

Here is the bottom line. Here is the red line! We should obey God rather than man. It's God's law first. We must obey what God has told us to do which aligns with Biblical revelation. Our desire should always be to put God before the government. Whenever the government gets in the way of our Gospel witness, we have a clear Scriptural mandate to disobey the government. However, we should also realize that in disobeying the law we will probably have to bear the consequences of disobedience.

The push today is to silence Christians and Americans. They want to take away our freedom of speech. They want to silence those who oppose the Marxist type of political views which are being propagated today and which they are trying to force down our throats. They have been trying to silence people on the internet, at schools, and everyday life from speaking their minds. Surely it will only be a matter of time until they will attempt to silence you and me as Christians from speaking the Gospel to others. Historically Marxism and those who practice it are haters of God and Christianity. It's an atheistic system. You don't have to do much homework to find this out!

There is a red line which cannot be crossed. We cannot obey the government when they command us to stop being witnesses for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 16:15

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Acts 1:8

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

This is God's command – not man's command! It is our Great Commission – not the great omission! We must always obey God over the government mandates that might forbid us to declare the Gospel to others. We ought to obey God rather than man!

Paul's emphasis on submission to government allows room for civil disobedience when the civil government requires the Christian to disobey God (Exod. 1:17–21).

When the will of man conflicts with the will of God, the Christian must always choose to do the will of God (Acts 5:29).

We have a Biblical right and mandate to share the Gospel.

Acts 8:3-4 says-

“As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed *them* to prison. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”

This brings up our next red line the government should not cross.

2. The red line of church gatherings.

Hebrews 10:24-25

“And let us consider one another (you don’t live on island all by yourself!) to provoke unto love and to good works. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

One reason we meet on Sunday is to be a blessing to one another. We are to stir each other on to live for God and “exhort” or encourage each another as we see (by faith) the day approaching when Christ is going to return in the Rapture. Folks, I’m seeing it! It can’t be long, it must be soon! The Biblical mandate of meeting together trumps any mandate the government might make in keeping us from meeting together as God’s people.

I suppose you heard about the guy who was marooned on a deserted island. When a ship came to his rescue, the captain learned that the man had lived alone on this island for five years. He noticed three huts, so he asked the man about them. The man pointed to one hut and said that he lived there. He pointed to the second hut and said that he goes to church there.

“What about that third hut?” the captain asked. The man replied, “Oh, that’s where I used to go until there was a church split.” The version of the story that I heard added that the man was a Baptist!

Here is a man who could not live with himself let alone other Christians! So he stopped going to church!

The First Amendment says: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

The First Amendment guarantees freedoms concerning religion, expression, assembly, and the right to petition. It forbids Congress from both promoting one religion over others and also restricting an individual's religious practices. Of course, Hebrews 10:24-25 predates the Second Amendment – It's actually the first amendment for the Christian life! By the way, the Bible is the Christian Constitution! We need to follow it.

Here is the red line we won't cross, here is God's command: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." We have a Biblical mandate to meet together as God's saints. It's sad when Marxist type governors allow others to burn down buildings and riot and loot stores in our cities ("which are mostly peaceful riots") but during Covid they severely restricted or banned Christians from meeting together. We saw this fiasco being played during the Covid and the mask mandates. They even arrested Christians for meeting together outside. I never imagined that I would see this type of overreach and dictatorship in this country.

Today persecuted Christians around the world meet in fear of reprisal from communistic and terrorist type of governments who hate Christians and Christianity. But believers meet anyway? Why? It's because they are God's children, and they want to be together and obey God's command to study the Bible and exhort one another during difficult times.

Men, how faithful are you when it comes to attending church? Do you stay home or play golf on Sunday while your wife and children go to church? You ought to be ashamed of yourself. You are to be the leader. Stand up and be a man and get your family to church. And don't sell me the line that watching church on TV and the Internet is the same thing as physically attending a local church. Stop living in a fool's paradise! No less than 15 times, the book of Acts speaks of believers coming "together" physically and corporately (with flesh and blood) for the purpose of

worship and prayer (Acts 2:44; 3:1; 14:27; 20:7). We are to be together – not separated! You are not “together” in the Biblical sense when you are sitting at home in your pajamas watching something on the Internet and TV. Interpersonal relationships are ordained by God. God’s original command on going to church means to physically come together and enjoy one another’s fellowship, and to corporately pray, worship together, and encourage one another. So get out of your pajamas, put on a tie, and go to church (a real church).

3. The red line of parental authority.

Whenever the government gets in the way of us raising our families with traditional and Biblical values, we have a clear Scriptural mandate to disobey the government.

Ephesians 6:4

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath (never call your child stupid): but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

The dad needs to set the spiritual direction and discipline in the home.

A. Negatively - “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath” - 4a

Never call your children stupid, pick favorites among your children, and make them live in straight jacket where they cannot breathe and move like normal children. You will drive them to wrath!

B. Positively - “but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” - 4b

Dad, you need to accept the responsibility for raising your children. Raising children boils down to protection and positive training. The term “nurture” means systematic education and training (which would include some old-fashioned German discipline. To nurture children includes both directing and correcting children. This training process requires years of patient encouragement, correction, and instruction with the aim of increasing their virtue.

Today they want to replace parents with bureaucrats for they seemingly have a better way to raise our children. They are saying break away from what you have

been taught in the home and church and follow us! Parental authority over children is viewed today as oppression by the Leftist wingnuts and Marxists in our country. The government wants to sexualize our children with transgenderism, drag queens, and sex-reassignment surgery. They want to strip children of their innocence.

There are men who say, "I identify as a woman, and this is my right." This is like a five feet tall man saying, "I want to be six feet tall and this is my right." The Leftists Marxists are coming after our children to brainwash them by no longer teaching our children history, biology, science, and common sense! Womanhood and manhood are being destroyed.

Psalm 78:2-4

"I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide *them* from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done."

Men, Satan wants our children and grandchildren! And he uses the secular school system, ideological enemies, social media, negligent parents, and other means to achieve his goal. We must be willing to go into enemy territory (fight the spiritual battle) to help our children and say figuratively, "Satan, you can't have my children. They are off limits!"

The next word "admonition" means to correct, warn, or strongly encourage someone to change their behavior and attitudes which are sinful and destructive. It involves appealing to the will of a child and urging a child to take responsibility for his actions. Admonishing not only means to talk to your children about factual information (you are a boy and you are a girl – God made you this way) but also talk with them about possessing right attitudes and principles of behavior. In admonishing them we are encouraging them to do what is right and live a virtuous life.

The key to right discipline and instruction of children is that is "of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). This means that everything parents do for their children is to be according to the teaching of His Word, is to be that which pleases Him, and that which brings glory and honor to Him.

The old expression “father knows best” is true when a father and man in the home is teaching his children right from wrong and modeling godly living.

Proverbs 1:8

“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.”

Proverbs 22:6

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Men, we are responsible for raising our children – not the government! Whenever the government wants to step in the way and force our children to accept homosexual behavior and create gender dysphoria in our children and override the rights of parents to raise our children with Biblical values, we had better step up to the plate and stand up for our children.

What they are doing to our children today in the public schools makes me want to spit! Of course, it would be holy spit! They are openly inviting children to look at pornographic and homosexual material in school libraries. Again, they are trying to sexualize our young children. These people who are doing this are a bunch of Leftist perverts, and you don’t allow perverts to influence your children!

As men, we need to teach our children about the birds and the bees! Our government wants to teach them about Adam and Steve and not Adam and Eve. We must not only instruct our children but also guard our children from cultural corruption and contamination. This is our mandate from God!

4. The red line of Biblical ethics.

We cannot submit to the government when the government wants us to forsake Biblical ethics things like and imbibe transgenderism, homosexuality, abortion, and other culturally corrupt and morally depraved practices. People are saying, “Bow to who I am.” “Accept me the way I am.” Just worship me and we’ll get along fine.” The present administration is trying to impose “pronounce mandates” or “proper pronoun policy” on various businesses requiring employees to lie to others about their biological sex.

Today they are also saying there are now an unlimited number of genders! I call this the alphabet soup of XYZ of debunked thinking. You can choose your preferred pronouns. Out with biology and in with lunacy! We have lost our sexual sanity in this country through woke theology.

Psalm 97:10 says:

Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Proverbs 8:13

The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Amos 5:15 gives us this the ancient reminder:

“Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.”

Today unnatural is assumed to be natural, the wrong is to be seen as right, the shameful is now celebrated.

But 1 Timothy 6:11 declares:

“But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.”

Put on Christ. Put on Christian character. Based upon these Scriptures and many other texts of Scripture which call us to follow the paths of holiness and separation (2 Cor. 6:14-17), we must never cross the red line of unbiblical ethics. We must follow “the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake” (Ps. 23:3) and not the path of the wicked!

Proverbs 4:14

“Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil *men*.”

Men, what part of this don’t we understand? We cannot allow the government to intrude into the realm of our own personal ethics which are based on clear, universal, timeless, and unchanging Scriptural commands for us to follow. Again, Biblical ethics would keep us from supporting things like abortion, homosexuality,

the sexual indoctrination of our children, even forced vaccines, and such like. Whenever the government seeks to push these types of things on our society, we have the Biblical right and mandate to oppose them, not support them, and never promote them in any way in our homes and churches for they oppose the absolute authority of Scripture.

When reflecting on upholding ethical standards, we must remember that there is a difference between opposing abortion and burning down abortion clinics. We should be clear about this when upholding ethical standards within our country. For example, our Christian obligation is still to submit to our government even though it PERMITS abortion and other ungodly practices. However, we draw the line in the sand and resist the government when it REQUIRES abortions or REQUIRES us to send our children transgender classes. The Bible teaches a Christian should DISOBEY government when it REQUIRES him to break unchanging Biblical ethics and moral standards, but NOT if the government only PERMITS certain unethical practices (Exod. 1:15–22).

A government might ALLOW certain evil atrocities and unethical practices to run ramped in a society, but when a government DEMANDS we engage in certain unethical practices is where we draw the red line. We must strongly oppose and say “NO” to the enforcement of any unethical and unbiblical ethics forced upon our homes and churches.

I do not believe a Christian should break the law to protest an ungodly practice that the government ONLY PERMITS. If a Christian disagrees with a law, that Christian should pursue whatever legal options exist to change the law.

But when the government crosses the red line and seeks to push down our throats its unethical conclusions on how to live, then we must “choose you this day whom ye will serve” (Joshua 24:15). Neutrality is impossible when following the Lord! We must hate the evil and love the good. Once again, we must follow the “paths of righteousness” (Ps. 23:3) – not the paths of government. This is why we sing:

“Faithful men have gone before us
Faithful men who fight and stand
I want to follow in their footsteps
Make me Lord a faithful man.

5. The red line of self-preservation.

Self-preservation is another situation where we can legitimately disobey the government. Our radicalized form of government today wants to remove our guns. In doing so, they are essentially taking away our Biblical right to bear arms and defend ourselves and families. Jesus would agree with our Second Amendment.

In several Bible passages we find God's unchanging mind regarding self-preservation. Protecting our families is morally right and a God-given right despite the pacifist's teachings against self-preservation. I've written a study on "God, Guns and the Bible" (Pacifist Teachings Refuted).

Luke 22:36

"Then said he (Jesus) unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take *it*, and likewise *his* scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one."

Jesus gave His disciples the permission to buy a sword and protect themselves from robbers and murderers. "Go to Walmart and buy a sword." Self-protection was necessary back in Bible times and these guys did not live in Chicago or New York.

Years ago, I was talking to a man at a place called Roots Farmer's Market. It's like the Green Dragon Market near where I live. This man was a pacifist (did not believe in self-defense) and so I asked him what Jesus meant when He told His disciples to go buy a sword. Do you know what he told me? He said, "The sword was for deer hunting!" But Peter was not going deer hunting but head hunting!

Luke 22:49

"When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword?"

Luke 22:50

"And one of them (Peter) smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear."

Peter was not aiming for the ear! He was going for the jugular vein! Of course, the cross was in the plan of God and it was not necessary to use the sword in this situation. So Jesus' healed the man's ear and this case told Peter to put away his

sword (John 18:11). Here is the obvious point. Jesus gave them permission to protect themselves. The right to self-defense is part of God's unchanging ethical laws built into societal living due to a fallen world.

Exodus 22:2 is a case in point:

"If a thief be found breaking up (*breaking in – burglarizing a home*), and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him."

Why shouldn't the man who kills the intruder be punished? Because it could not be determined whether the thief in the night was merely stealing or coming to hurt the man's family or household. God taught that self-preservation (defense) was ethical and not a violation of sixth commandment - "Thou shalt not kill" (Ex. 20:13).

It's interesting that the same God who said "Thou shalt not kill" under the Mosaic Law also gave a man the right to protect his family and home without charging him as a killer or murderer. God's Word is very clear on this.

Many Bible passages promote the God-given right of self-preservation and protection from enemy or hostile forces.

Psalm 18:34

"He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms."

Psalm 18:39

"For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me."

Psalm 144:1

"Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight."

If a person attacks us or attacks our family with violence, we can be certain that defending ourselves is not identical to taking revenge after the fact (Rom. 12:19). Men, we have the Biblically right and mandate to protect our families. We must always be ready to protect our children from harm's way for they are given to us by God. They are God's heritage, and we must deeply care for them and protect them.

Years ago we were at a rest stop and there were a lot of people and commotion inside. Some complete stranger said he wanted to separate our children from us and take a picture of them. He began to be rather insistent about it. I told him gracefully but demandingly right to his face, "No pictures of my children." We need to stand against the pressure of the world and protect our families. There are a lot of morally depraved people in our society.

God has given us the right to protect ourselves and families. Before we had children, my wife and I were in Hidalgo Illinois. I was holding evangelism services in a church. My wife and I were staying in a home that was situated in the middle of nowhere. The man said to me, "We have guns in this house, and we know how to use them. Don't come into the house announced or we will shoot you." Well, that was a rather long week of meetings, and we were sure to announce ourselves every time we came into the home! "I'm here! I'm here!"

What is the point of all this. When the government says we cannot bear arms any longer and protect ourselves and families, then we have the right to disobey the government! Jesus said we can carry our modern-day swords! This right is not only enshrined in our Second Amendment but it's in our Bible!

I don't know about you men, but I have several swords lying around my house. On more than one occasion my wife along with my six grandchildren were upstairs in our home sleeping overnight. I have a pretty big sword in my nightstand which is right beside my bed. I hope it will never happen, but I can guarantee you that if an intruder comes into my house and starts up the steps that this intruder (God willing) is not going to make it to the top of the stairs! You say, "That's not Christian like." My reply would be: "It's a Biblical and manlike response." You are not a man if you don't protect your family! God has placed this instinct within a man to protect his family.

Our borders are wide open, they are sex-trafficking untold thousands upon thousands of children, they have whitewashed our Judeo-Christian heritage in America, the propagandists have changed the language, there is a war on the meaning of words and ideas, women's reproductive rights means to kill babies, womanhood and manhood are being destroyed, rational arguments no longer matter, ideologies rule over the facts, diversity, equity, inclusion (the Marxist trio),

reimagining law and order, white supremacy has turned into Christian supremacy. And with the push of gender equality, marriage equality, economic equality, and antisemitism, things are waxing worse and worse!

Someone said, "Truth is not safe in a pagan world." Not even science is safe anymore for "Science without integrity is propaganda." The mantra of today is this: "America is evil, its founding was illegitimate, and blame must be assigned."

What is happening in this country and the world? The stage is being set for a global reset, a one-world Marxist government, a one-world currency (we are closer than you think), diversity compliance, worldwide manipulation with universal control, submission, and even universal worship. It's coming!

People sometimes ask me how bad it will get before the Rapture? Well, it's going to get harder during these "perilous times" (2 Tim. 3:1) as the world defines Christians at terrorists, homophobic, societal misfits, and who are committing hate crimes when we don't affirm someone's aberrant or twisted sexuality, or when we don't bow the knee to the Big Brother of paganized government. We are going to be the brunt of collective demonization as this culture continues to collapse! We need to get our heads out of the sand and stand up as men. These are times to rise up and be men of God.

1 Corinthians 16:13 gives a final word. We are to stand up as men and be counted: "Watch ye (stay spiritually alert), stand fast in the faith (what you believe), quit you like men, (act *manly, courageously, to behave and be brave as a man*) be strong."

Men, get out of the chicken house and stand up for Jesus Christ and stand up for your children! We have everything to lose if we don't. We cannot back down or surrender woke theology and wacked out Marxists who are trying overrun our country. The church is facing a day of reckoning! We cannot afford to become complicit, complacent, or contaminated. Instead, become courageous! We cannot accept and affirm wokism. We cannot be indoctrinated. We cannot back down. We cannot accept the lies!

Men, I think God is calling us to a level of commitment we have not experienced before! The culture is shaking its fist in God's face. We cannot drift along with the prevailing culture. Instead, we must be courageous!

Joshua 1:7

“Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it [to] the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.”

The culture may cancel us as Christians, but God will never cancel us! It’s true that in every age, the church has always been involved in a fight for the truth. We need to wake up and realize we are fighting a spiritual battle (Eph. 6:12). We are either going surrender to the culture, sink, or swim to the shore and retain a voice for the truth. Hold down the fort men! Take up your cross and follow Jesus! We must “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Tim. 6:12). We cannot follow the current of the culture!

There is a red line that the government cannot pass over. In the last three years it seems like they keep pushing themselves closer and closer to this line. But we must raise up a standard as the enemy comes in like a flood!

Luther's statement sealed his place in world history:

"My conscience is captive to the word of God! To go against conscience is neither right nor safe. I therefore cannot, and I will not recant! Here I stand."

This is where we are today. We must be prepared and willing to take our stand against those who are trying to silence our Gospel speech. We must stand against those who are trying to keep us from having the right to assembly. We must stand against such things as abortion, transgenderism, Leftist/Marxist ideologies, government overreach, and the taking away of the right to protect ourselves and families.

We must put a guard around our hearts and lives and not lose our way by allowing the world to negatively impact our lives and families.

A Christian wrote this prayer:

“Fight for us, O God, that we not drift numb and blind and foolish into vain and empty excitements. Life is too short, too precious, too painful to waste on worldly bubbles that burst.”