

## The Christian and the Laws of the Land

What is the Christian's responsibility to his nation regarding the laws of the land? Romans 13:1-7 tells Christians that they are to obey the laws of the nation they are living in. **Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. (2) Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.** (NIV)

Does this mean that there are no exceptions? Yes, there are! If the governing authorities become immoral and violate the laws of God by passing laws that contradict the teachings of the Bible, then Christians are actually commanded to break those man-made laws. In chapter five of the book of Acts the apostles were commanded by the Jewish officials not to preach the message of Jesus Christ in public, but they did anyway. They were arrested and brought before the governing authorities, who said in 5:28, **We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,** (NIV). Verse 29 records their reply, **Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"** (NIV)

In other words, when the governing authorities pass laws that make it difficult to follow Biblical standards then the law is immoral and the Christian is to **"OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN."** There is no human law that is above the law of God. God has ordained that nations pass laws that are in conformity with His laws.

There is something else that all Christians should be aware of: We must be careful not be involved with the sins of other

individuals. We are commanded in I Timothy 5:22, **Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, AND DO NOT SHARE IN THE SINS OF OTHERS. Keep yourself pure.** (NIV) This passage was written with regard to the pastors of local churches, but the principle remains the same for all believers in Jesus Christ. In order to live our Christian life in a way that pleases God we are **“not to share in the sins of others.”** This means that if I willingly assist another individual to commit a sin or sins, then I will be held accountable to the Lord and that will be a stain on my Christian life in the eyes of God.

As a minister of the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ and a teacher of the Word of God, it would be sinful for me to be involved in performing a gay wedding or giving my blessing to such a union. Therefore I have resolved in my mind not to follow any law that would instruct me to be involved in gay weddings or to give my blessing to any gay couple. The Bible is very clear that homosexuality is not only a grievous sin, but it is a perversion of what God has created. (Romans 1:18-32.)

From Desk of

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