



I. Introduction

II. Government is generally good and Christians should be subject to it

- a. It is "good" because it was instituted before the fall of man (Genesis 1:28, 31).
- b. It is instituted by God (Romans 13:1-7)
- c. What if it's a bad government? Should Christians be subject to a bad government?
- d. Mark 12:13-17

- e. Exception: If government tells you to do something God has told you not to do, you should not obey because by obeying you would be obeying a true but lower authority. God is the ultimate authority.

III. The kingdom is not an earthly kingdom

John 18:33-36: So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."



IV. No Earthly Kingdom or Nation is to Be Identified as Uniquely God's People

- a. Old Testament Israel was different in that it was a theocracy.
- b. The new covenant is for all nations.
- c. Mark Dever: "The legal establishment of Christianity in many nations centuries after the apostles reflected an already distorted gospel, and led to terrible confusions as the church wielded the sword in religious wars and inquisitions. And I think we are tempted to similar confusions today."
- d. The United States have been and are certainly still influenced by Christianity but it is not a Christian nation or a theocracy.
- e. John Piper: "Followers of Christ are not Americans first. Our first allegiance is to Jesus, and then to the God-inspired word of Scripture, the Bible. This is our charter, not the U.S. Constitution."

V. So should we care about politics at all?

VI. Application - So in light of all this, what's a Christian to do? What do we know for sure from Scripture. What should we do?

VII. Conclusion

- a. Obey laws
- b. Pray for leaders
- c. Share the gospel
- d. Be a discerning voter
- e. Consider getting more involved in politics