

Obeys for the Lord's sake... all rulers... even the evil... who are raised up by God, e.g. for judgement (e.g. Isaiah 3:4)

Is. 3:4 "I will make boys their princes, and infants shall rule..."

Why? so we don't experience God's earthly judgement

Why? so we don't hurt our consciences by sinning (Romans 13:5)

5. There are times when we MUST disobey the authorities

* subjection to civil authority must never lead us away from subjection & obedience to God *

"How absurd would it be that in satisfying men you should incur the displeasure of him for whose sake you obey men themselves!" John Calvin

What God forbids... or forbidding what God commands → DISOBEY

e.g. Daniel in Babylon

What about us?

Questions

Any questions on today's topic?

Any questions you'd like to cover as we think about politics, government and nationhood?

politics, government & nationhood - 1

Government: Bible basics

Psalm 2, Romans 13:1-7

While waiting to begin

1. What sort of government do you want there to be in our country?
2. What are your reasons?

Approaching our topic: "political theology"

- religion is pushed OUT of politics...

... and is increasingly OBVIOUS in politics
- the Bible speaks about government and politics: no neutrality
- 2 dangers for Christians:
 - Defined by party politics (and excluding our opponents)
 - Saying nothing
- Acknowledgement / resources
 - David Thomas, Christ Church Romford
 - James Baird, *King of Kings: a reformed guide to Christian government*

- Summary:

Westminster Confession 23.1, "God, the supreme Lord and King of all the world, has ordained civil authorities to be, under him, over the people for his own glory and the public good. For this purpose he has armed them with the power of the sword for the defense and encouragement of those who are good, and for the punishment of those who do evil."

1. Government is instituted by God

**** God has mandated rulers and invested them with authority ****

Rom 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.
For there is no authority except from God, and
those that exist have been instituted by God.

Think about a democracy like ours: from where does authority come?

God the Trinity has rightful authority over all... and delegates it to
appointed leaders in...

the family
the church
the state

2. All rulers owe allegiance to the one true God

It is NOT that every ruler RECOGNISES where his authority comes from...

BUT: Jesus Christ, unto whom all government is given, is...

Revelation 1:5, "... the ruler of kings on earth."

Revelation 17:14, "... he is Lord of lords and King of kings..."

Revelation 19:16, "On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written,
King of kings and Lord of lords."

THEREFORE, all kings AS KINGS must...

Psalms 2:10-12, "... be wise... serve the Lord with fear... Kiss the Son..."

3. Rulers must seek the public good

Government is not neutral...

God's Word tells us the will of God for rulers = "good" (as defined by God)

Romans 13:4, "for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be
afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of
God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer."

Next week: what is "GOOD"?

= piety, justice and peace...

godly example and laws...

protecting the church

Armed by God with power of coercion

4. We are to submit to the authorities who are over us

Romans 13:1-3 "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For
there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been
instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what
God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment."

1 Pet. 2:13-14 "Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution,
whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him
to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good"

Deut. 1:17 "You shall not be partial in judgment. You shall hear the small and
the great alike. You shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgment
is God's..."