**Should We Obey The Laws Of The Land?**

I Peter 2:13 “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake …”

Titus 3:1 “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,”

Rom 13:1-2,5 “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. … Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.”

Speed limit laws – If the speed limit says 70, it is a sin to go over 70. If the speed limit is 25, we must go 25 or under.

Another illustration - It is wrong to cheat on our taxes.

But there is another side to the coin …

Acts 5:29 “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

When Jesus’ disciples were told to quit preaching by local authorities, they did not have to obey. Not only did they not have to obey, it would have been wrong for them to obey the local authorities and quit preaching.

There are also things the law of the land allows that God does not …

Bankruptcy …

Rom 13:7-8 “Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.”

Psalms 37:21a “The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again”

And so even though the government allows bankruptcy, God’s law does not allow a Christian to take it.

In 1973 the government starting allowing legal abortions …

Exod 21:22-24 “If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman’s husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot” (NKJV)

Gal 5:21 “Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

In more recent years, the government has changed to allow Homosexuality and Gay Marriage to be practiced …

I Cor 6:9-11 “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”

Divorce …

Decades ago, our government starting allowing divorce for basically any cause …

Matt 19:9 “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”

Women preachers …

Most churches allow women preachers, but …

I Tim 2:11-12 “Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.”

Obeying the government’s laws is important to guarding our example …

Matt 5:13-16 “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

II Cor 8:21 “Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.”