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DOCTRINE

**THE KINGDOM OF GOD,  
THE TYRANNY OF MEN,  
AND HOW TO RESPOND**

Romans 13, Acts 5:29, Daniel 3, 6

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# THE WHOLE COUNCIL OF SCRIPTURE

## CRITICAL PASSAGES

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Romans 13

1 Peter 2:13

Acts 5:29

Daniel 1

Daniel 3

Daniel 6

John 19:10-11

Matthew 28:18-20

Matthew 22:21

Prov 29:2

1 Samuel 8



THE FOUNDATION FOR THE  
GREAT COMMISSION AND FOR  
ALL HUMAN GOVERNMENT IS:

# JESUS IS KING OVER EVERYTHING

**MATTHEW 28:18-20**

*18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*





# SPHERES OF AUTHORITY

CHRIST IS KING OVER ALL



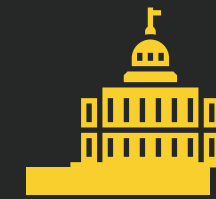
**FAMILY:  
FATHER**

(Ephesians 5-6)



**CHURCH:  
ELDERS**

(1 Timothy 3,  
Hebrews 13,  
1 Peter 5:5)



**CIVIL GOVERNMENT:  
MAGISTRATES**

(Romans 13,  
Titus 3:1-3,  
1 Peter 2:17)



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# OTHER AUTHORITATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

## CHRIST OVER ALL

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### SPIRITUAL REALM: BELIEVERS

Christians have authority  
over demons. (Luke 10)

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### WORKPLACE: BOSSES

(Ephesians 5,  
1 Peter 2:18)





OBEDIENCE

**WE OBEY GOVERNING AUTHORITIES  
TO HONOR CHRIST.**

WE MUST NEVER OBEY GOVERNING AUTHORITIES AT  
THE EXPENSE OF OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST.



## Romans 13

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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. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 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. 5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.



# PRINCIPLES

Civil authorities are valid in so much as they enforce God's standards of justice (His Law).

## GOD ORDAINED CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We are to be subject to governing institutions/authorities because they ordained by God to maintain civil order.

## BIBLICAL CIVIL GOVERNMENT APPROVES GOOD AND PUNISHES EVIL

A government that adheres to God's law is good for society. When civil governments are a terror to good and approving of evil, they no longer fit the biblical description of Romans 13 and are not to be obeyed in those areas which they are punishing good.

## MAGISTRATES ARE GOD'S SERVANTS, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND

Magistrates exist to serve God's purposes, not their own. Any magistrate who inhibits godly justice or otherwise restricts obedience to God is no longer operating within their delegated authority.

Doctrine: Obey God, Defy Tyrants



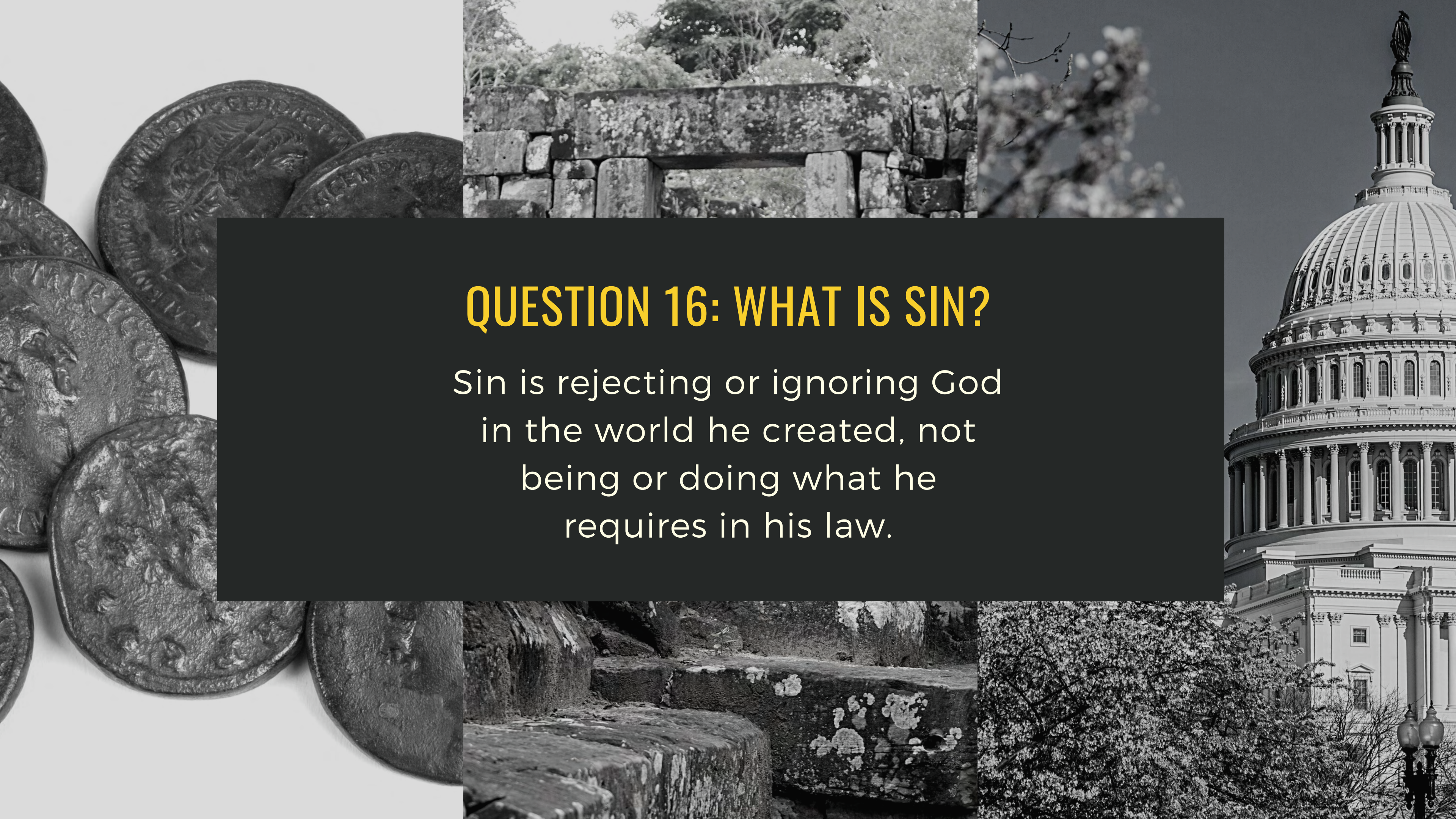
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**PROVERBS 29:2**

***When the righteous increase,  
the people rejoice,  
but when the wicked rule, the  
people groan.***

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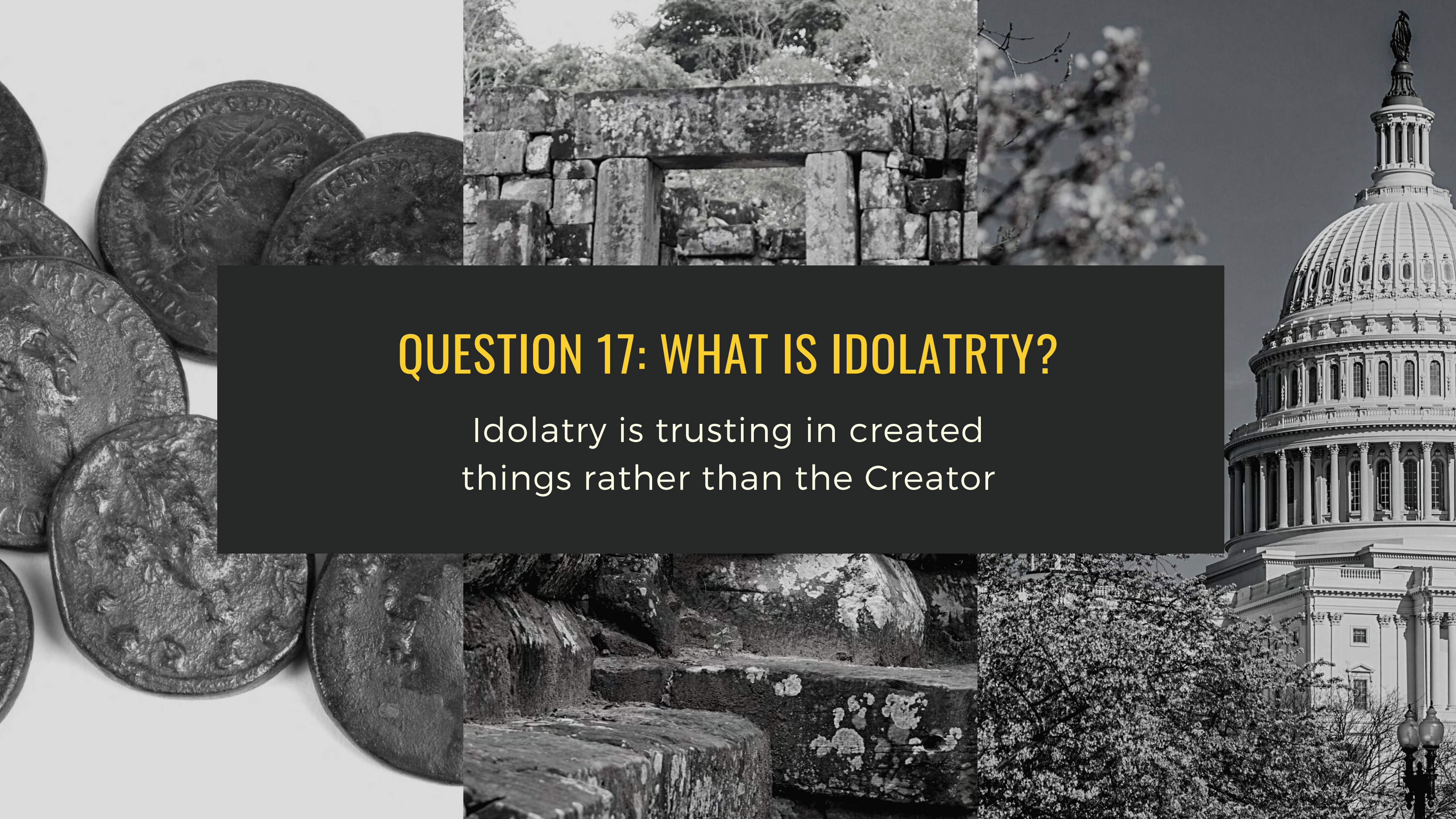




## QUESTION 16: WHAT IS SIN?

Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, not being or doing what he requires in his law.





## QUESTION 17: WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator



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# WHAT SHALL WE RENDER TO CAESAR? WHAT SHALL WE RENDER TO GOD?

*15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. 16 And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" 21 They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, **"Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."** 22 When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away. -Matthew 22:15-22*





# PRINCIPLES

You belong to God,  
not to Caesar!

## PAYING TAXES IS NOT SIN

The question was whether you could pay taxes, not whether you should (in this passage)

## TREATING CAESAR LIKE GOD IS SIN.

God owns you. You are created in His image, not Caesars.  
Give yourself over to God, not to tyrants. .



## 1 Peter 3:13-17

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13 **Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution**, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.



# PRINCIPLES

Lawful obedience to civil authorities is a matter of testimony.

It affects our Gospel proclamation.

## IT IS FOR THE LORD'S SAKE THAT WE ARE SUBJECT TO CIVIL MAGISTRATES

Our ultimate obedience is to God. We only submit to civil authorities because of Him.

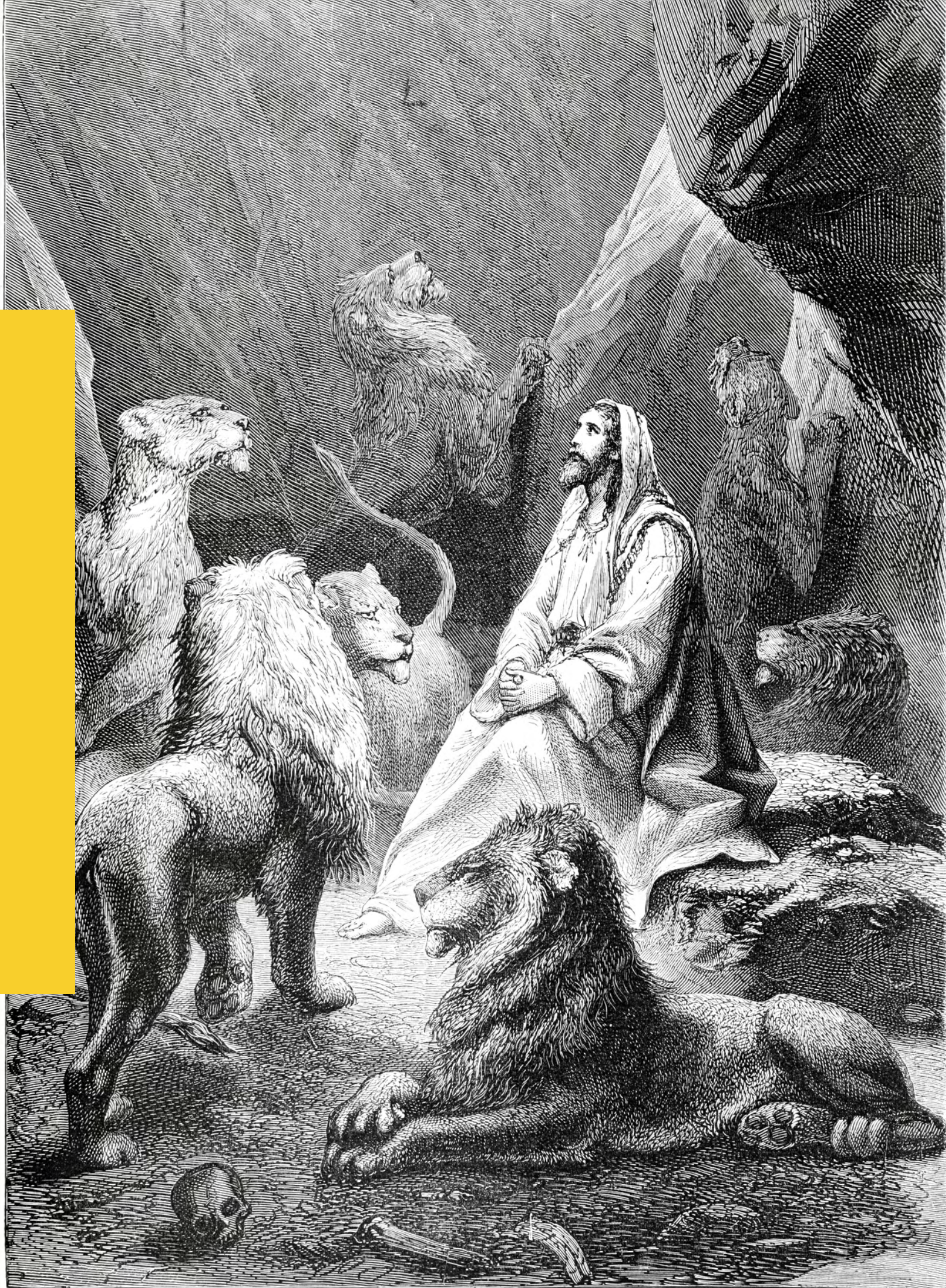
## FREEDOM IS FOR SERVING GOD, NOT ENGAGING IN EVIL

if you use your freedom to sin, you in disobedience to God. The purpose of civil freedom is obedience to God.

## WE ARE TO HONOR LEADERS, BUT FEAR ONLY GOD

We don't obey civil magistrates out of fear. Fear is reserved only for God.





## DANIEL 1,3,6

# OBEDIENCE TO MAGISTRATES IN MATTERS OF LAW MAKES FAITHFUL DISOBEDIENCE MEANINGFUL.

Daniel and his friends were consistently obedient to their captors in every way possible and respectful even when obedience to God required disobedience to Emperors. Their obedience made their disobedience meaningful.



## Acts 5:27-32

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27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, 28 saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.” 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, “**We must obey God rather than men.**” 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”



# PRINCIPLES

**"We must obey God  
rather than men"**

WHEN MAGISTRATES OR OTHER  
AUTHORITIES INHIBIT OBEDIENCE TO GOD,  
WE OBEY GOD AND DEFY TYRANTS

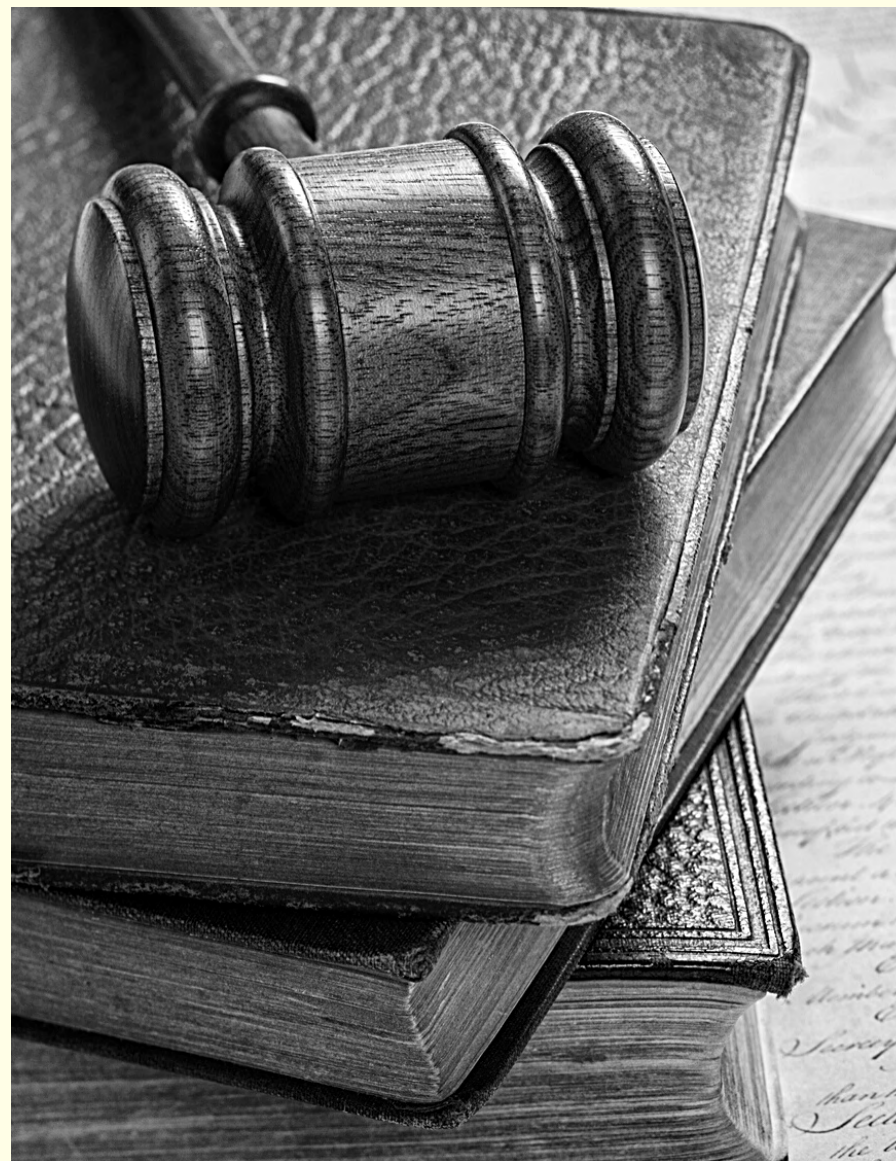
If we disobey God in order to obey men, we have committed idolatry.

WHEN BROUGHT BEFORE TYRANTS,  
PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

The apostles proclaimed the gospel when they were told not to, and they proclaimed the gospel when they were arrested.



# KEY REALITIES



## THE CONSTITUTION IS THE LAW OF THE LAND IN THE UNITED STATES

In obedience to 1 Peter 3:13-17, we must obey the constitution. This may require disobedience to unconstitutional laws at times.

## MAGISTRATES, ORDERS, AND LAWS WHICH DO NOT ADHERE TO THE LAW OF THE LAND ARE NOT TO BE OBEYED

Obedience to that which is unlawful is a violation of Romans 13.

## THE US HAS LAWS AND MANDATES THAT MOCK GOD'S LAW

Laws that violate God's commands are not to be obeyed by Christians.



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# CHURCH HISTORY

## WHO IS LORD?

Christian persecution escalated in gentile communities because Christians refused to offer a pinch of incense to Caesar and declare him Lord (something that would have been considered as normal as the pledge of allegiance).

Declaring "Jesus is Lord" (Romans 10:9) was a direct affront to the pagan worship of Caesar. Thus, Rome persecuted Christians for roughly 300 years until Constantine, the emperor converted.





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# RESPONDING TO TYRANNY

## APPEAL TO LESSER MAGISTRATES

As the prophet Daniel appealed to his immediate authority to request that he not defile himself with unclean food, so should we appeal to our immediate authority for protection against tyranny.

If appealing to lesser magistrates fails, we are still to obey God rather than men.







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# CONCLUSION

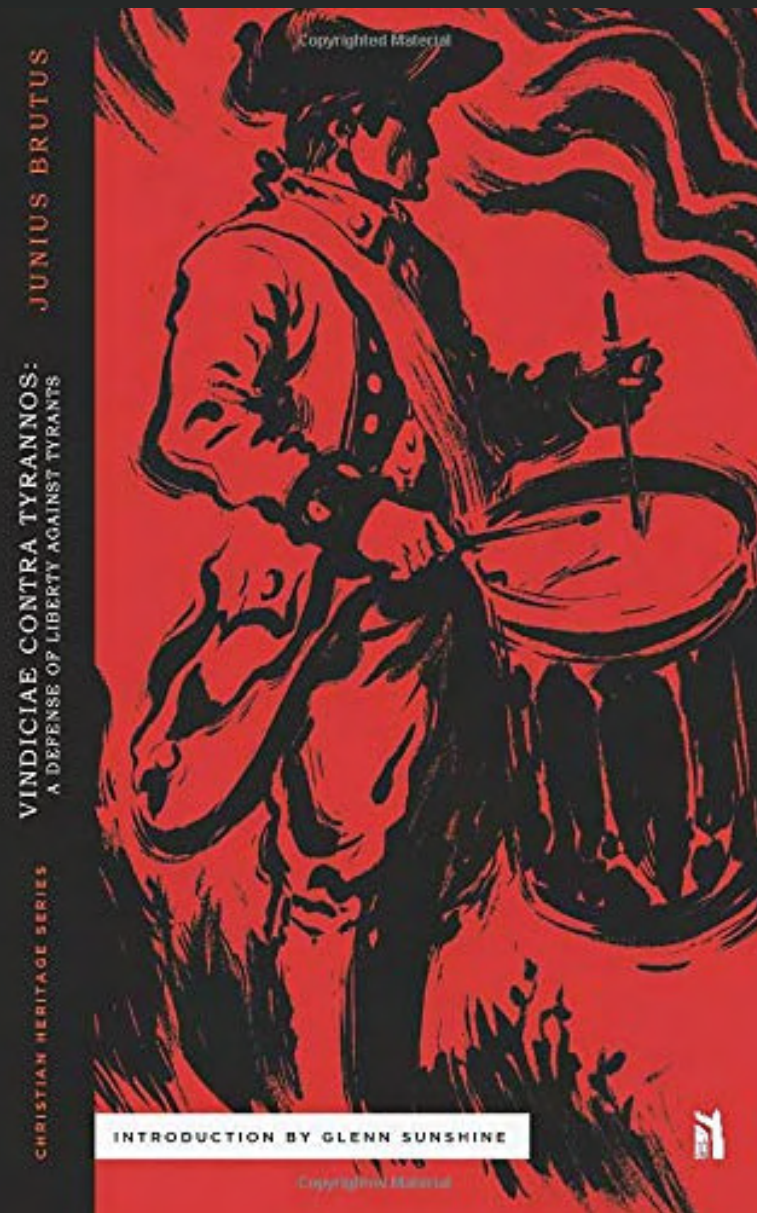
**OBEY TO HUMAN AUTHORITIES  
WHEN THEY ENACT GODLY LAWS.  
OBEY GOD AT ALL COSTS.**

**DEFY TYRANTS WHEN NECESSARY.**

Obedience to human governing authorities is obedience to God's servants in so much as those servants themselves enforce God's law. When they do not, the believer, being subject to Christ first must disobey human authorities to obey God. If one obeys man rather than God, they are inherently denying the Lordship of Christ.

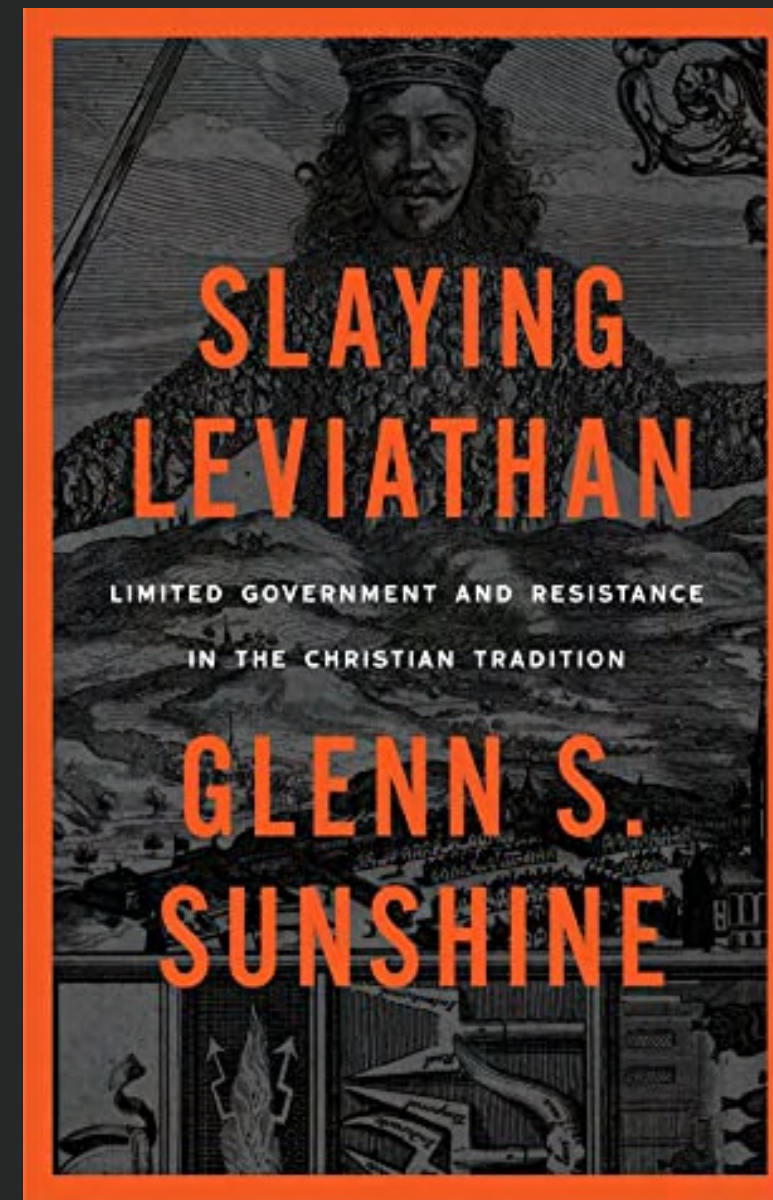


# HELPFUL RESOURCES



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*"Kings must be obeyed for God's cause, and not against God, and then, when they serve and obey God, and not otherwise... That sentence of God Almighty must always remain irrevocably true: 'I will not give My glory to any other,' (Is. 42:8), that is, no man shall have such absolute authority."*



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*"How are we to respond to the threats to liberty we are facing? Starting to answer that question begins with this book. We are remarkably unaware of our own Christian history."*