

Romans 13: Yah's Law and Man's Law

The Reformation teaching of SOLA SCRIPTURA (the Scriptures alone) is not a good argument for individual interpretation of the Bible. Anyone can justify almost anything by using Bible verses as proof texts. Everyone claims that their belief is based upon the Bible. The Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Baptists, Church of Christ, Seventh Day Adventists, etc. all claim that their doctrines come from the Bible, yet their beliefs are so varied as to be irreconcilable. Once these doctrines are traced back to their roots, a point of origin is found — a man. Someone accepts the authority of a man, and his teachings are passed on in a particular spirit. As Yahshua said, when a student is fully trained he will be like his teacher. We do not receive facts alone, but we receive the very spirit of the one whom we allow to teach us. This is the case with the Evangelical interpretation of Rom 13 and 1 Pet 2 about submitting ourselves to government.

The teaching that all governments are approved by Yahweh and believers should obey them without question, can be traced all the way back to Luther in the Reformation. Actually, it can go back even further to Emperor Constantine. He was really the one who set this teaching into motion and he was such a brilliant politician that his policies still hold sway over men's thinking after 1500 years.

Paul and Peter (writing in Rom and 1 Pet) were speaking in a day when they had some confidence that the Roman State was, on the whole, just and beneficent to all. In fact, Rome is still used as a model for just laws and government. However, later on, as the original apostles died off, the fresh anointing of Yah's presence dripped off, and the problems continued to increase for the early church. Frictions with Rome intensified as Rome began to perceive more and more that the church was competing for authority with the state. This was not really true at all, it's just that Rome saw it this way because of her own paranoia and insecurity. Since Rome did not have the loyal heart of its constituents, therefore Rome resorted to its last resort, showing its true colors — the Beast began to shed the blood of the saints.

Many Roman rulers continued to try to deal with the problem of the Christians by persecuting and killing them. Meanwhile, the Empire was disintegrating, while the Christianity, which it was trying to destroy, was growing and becoming stronger. When Constantine had a vision of a "Cross", he had his soldiers paint a white cross on their shields and he started winning battles. He became a great friend of the Christians, ending the persecution, and even restoring lands and fortunes seized by the Empire back to them. He won their hearts like no other had done. In return, because of their fallen away condition, they trusted him to the point of bringing him into the very council of the church leaders and even installed him as the head of the council! At this point, the church married the state. Israel intermarried with Babylon. Spiritual Jews mixed with the gentiles.

From there came the doctrine that Yahweh supports all the governments of all the nations of the earth. This was a very advantageous teaching for Constantine, since he was the ruler of a pagan nation which had a significant number of Christians within its borders. Through his actions, Constantine secured the support and participation of Christians in his government. Where before soldiers were executed for being "Christian", it became a requirement. No one was allowed to fight in the Roman army unless they said they were "Christian." "Christians" have felt justified and even compelled to participate in governments ever since that time.

Luther picked up this same teaching and included it as foundational teaching during the Reformation. This is one reason that the Evangelical Church in Germany said nothing of the activities of the Nazi government during World War II. They were submitting to their "God given" government.

GOVERNMENT

The greatest problem in understanding about submission to government (kingdom), is understanding what government is. Without the church, what do you think about when you hear the word, government? If you are an American, you think about the President, Congress, Governor, and Mayor. That's what Luther did. Not seeing the true church, or the kingdom of Yah, all he thought about was the German government. For many centuries, there certainly hasn't been any government shown forth from the religious system. But when Paul spoke of government or power or authority, you can be sure that he was speaking from his understanding of the true government of Yahweh. His purpose on the earth was to bring the rule and government of Yahweh to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles.

At one time, there was only one government in the entire universe. The first act of treason was when Lucifer rebelled against Yahweh. This crime was and still is the most devastating crime conceivable. It is the fruit of breaking the first commandment of the law of Yah. From this crime of treason comes all of the evil in the world today. This crime created another government — Satan’s. Now there are two governments, only two, and we either participate in one or the other. Because of Adam’s disobedience, all nations are now under the government of Satan (1 Jn 5:19).

There is corruption in the government of all nations. Any government that does not uphold and defend the right of Yah’s government to exist, and does not support it wholeheartedly, is criminal and finds itself guilty of treason against Yah and His rightful place of rule and authority on earth. The prophet Daniel told us long ago that the nature and quality of the governments of the nations would grow more and more evil, more and more corrupt (Dan 2:31 45). No matter how good certain aspects of life might seem in any nation or state, each is guilty of this one great crime against Yah — treason. This corruption is exposed in the U.S. whenever government officials plot to undermine the moral fiber of the Constitution. Whenever this happens, those officials are guilty of treason. A true servant of God in this society is one who will uphold the pure aspects of democracy which gives the church the right to exist. True servants of God in government are worthy of our honor and respect. We are to submit to such men.

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR

As Rom 13:7 states, we are to give respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor. How do we determine who is worthy to receive honor and respect? Love requires no actions from the one loved. We are to even love our enemies. Love has no pre suppositions. However, respect and honor do require performance, not as an actor on a stage but in the execution of love and care for others — to fulfill and to accomplish human service as being human to another human being. Respect can only be a response to the one who is being a servant of God as in the state government. No one can respect a state government which acts as the chief administrator of injustice to its adherents. 1 Pet 2:13 17 — We respect those servants sent by Yah to punish those who do wrong and praise those who do right, and not “right” and “wrong” as the fallen representatives in control of the state government interpret it. They violate the citizens’ rights by gross immoralities of injustice.

1 Pet 2:17 — Fear God, to whom fear is due, honor the emperor, whom honor is due. But this judgment of who is due honor is in the Body of Messiah, where the Head of the church communicates to the members. *Honor all men* where honor is due. Love the brotherhood without any conditions. Love is without conditions, but honor and respect is *conditional*. One cannot honor and respect unless it is *due*. The judge who judges unjustly, how do we address him as “Your Honor” when there is no honor due to him? How do I swear to a god of injustice and unrighteousness? How do we even pledge to tell the truth in an unjust system, where only those who lie win the cases. The cases are usually won by the best liar, the most clever and by those with the most cleverly presented case (the slickest lawyer). It is a system which is not based upon the truth because it assumes it must trick the one under oath in order to get the truth out of him. This is called interrogation.

1 Pet 2:14 — “Punish those who do wrong and praise those who do right.” “Woe to the day when they call right wrong and wrong right,” when the state punishes those who do right and praise those who do wrong. The government officials should stay within their proper bounds of authority. They go beyond their boundaries when they punish those who do good and attempt to oppose Yah’s government upon the earth.

ROMANS 13

“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 Yahweh.”

Peter wrote in 2 Pet 3:16 that Paul wrote some things that are difficult to understand, which ignorant and unstable people misconstrue to their own destruction. “Ignorant” doesn’t mean a low I. Q., but it’s speaking of those who are not familiar with apostolic teaching in [on? about? --Z] the government of Yahweh. Who a person’s god is, determines how that person reacts to civil authorities. A person whose God gave His laws to Moses will certainly respect civil authority, but his true allegiance goes only to Yah’s

government.

Certainly, Paul was not preaching blind obedience to men's government. He wasn't preaching against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who absolutely defied the king's orders. He wasn't speaking against Daniel, who disobeyed the king and got tossed to the lions. He wasn't preaching against Peter and John, who disobeyed the civil and religious leaders of their day. Of course Paul wasn't criticizing Yahshua, who refused to answer the questions of those who had "authority" over him (Dan 3; 6; Acts 4:19 20; Jn 19:9).

We must submit to civil authorities. That's why we obtain driver's license, obey the speed limit, license our businesses, pay more than our share of taxes, etc. Governments on the earth keep order and maintain a certain amount of peace. Without them there would be chaos and disorder of every imaginable sort. We don't just submit to the government so that we won't go to jail or pay a fine. Because Yahweh is writing His laws upon our hearts, we wouldn't do things even if there weren't a law against them. We submit for our conscience's sake.

Rom 13:5 — We are obedient to a higher law than man's law. And we must answer to a higher government than man's government. That's why we can't violate our conscience, even when man's government tells us to do it. The whole idea of authority and the concept of government come from Yahweh. That is the meaning of Romans 13. He is the beginning of government, and one day the whole universe will be filled with the glory of that one government, because all rebellion will be eliminated. It was established "by" Him. But the governments of the earth do not operate on hearing and seeing from Yahweh. The only government that does that is the government of Israel, which is the church. All other governments operate and exist totally apart from Yah. Even though government was established "by" Him, it is not "of" Him. The perfect, righteous, pure and holy Father of Messiah would not appoint unrighteous rulers. Do you think that the Lord of heaven and earth appointed Hitler? Do you think that the Almighty appointed Ronald Reagan? Of course not. Yahweh is not involved in the kingdoms of the world, the governments of this age. Yahshua clearly stated that His kingdom is NOT of this world (Jn 18:36).

In the past, Yah was only interested in worldly kingdoms in how they related to Israel. He used the nations to discipline Israel, and He used Israel to judge the nations. These things are written down for our instruction. Now the Lord is still only interested in Israel, as far as accomplishing His will upon the earth. Everything is for Israel.

The reason Rahab the harlot could tell a lie in faith, is because she was for Israel. The reason that people could massacre men, women, and children in order to bring about Yah's judgment upon Jericho is because they were for Israel. Down through history we see things that happened to and for and by Yah's people that defy explanation by every moral doctrine and principle except that they were FOR Israel.

We are of another government, the government that the Lord is raising up to destroy all other governments (Dan 2:44). As this government is the Kingdom of Yah, so the governments of the world are the Kingdom of Satan. Yah is not yoked with the devil, appointing rulers for his Kingdom. Yah's government is the one that all our energies must be devoted to. Our songs must be sung from Israel. Our talents must be used to build up Jerusalem the protection of peace for Yah's people. Otherwise, we're building up Satan's kingdom, for these are the only two possibilities.

We are not anti American. We want the government to prosper and do its job: punishing evildoers and rewarding those who do good. We love government, and that is why we are participating in the government of Yah. It's just that we cannot give our ultimate allegiance to the state. Our ultimate allegiance goes only to Yahweh. Someone said that when the government controls the people, that government will try to become man's God. Thus we will not become idolatrous and worship another god, by transgressing the laws written on our heart, to obey an earthly government when its commands go against the commands of Yahweh. When the government makes demands upon us which violate our conscience, then we must say, like Peter and John, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in Elohim's sight to obey you rather than Him. We will obey Yahweh."

GOD AND COUNTRY

There is a large group of people among the ranks of Christians who are the main promoters of the belief that God and country go hand in hand. Many religious leaders have been telling their congregations that the U. S. Government is ordained of God. Therefore, all Christians should defend it, uphold it, and obey

it. This belief comes from a wrong understanding of Rom 13:1 7. They quote these verses and say that ALL government is ordained by God and, therefore, we should always obey the government we're living under, even when it disregards God's Word and His laws, thus becoming both criminal and wicked. It becomes criminal when it breaks its own laws (the Constitution). It is wicked when it breaks Yah's laws (abortion, etc.).

However, these same people seem to have forgotten their history lessons. According to such doctrines, most Bible preachers and teachers would say that at the time of the Revolutionary War, the government of King George III in England must have been ordained of God. Therefore, the founding fathers of the U. S. must have violated God's Word in Rom 13 when they rebelled against the tyranny of King George. By their teaching, it seems that the heroes of the Revolution such as George Washington, Patrick Henry, James Madison, and Thomas Jefferson should have remained loyal to England and continued to obey the dictates of King George III.

In light of such a shocking revelation, perhaps all the Christians who wave their flags and defend absolute obedience to the so called "God ordained" government of the U.S. should also repent for the rebellious acts of the American Revolution. By their own teaching, they should suggest to their congressmen that we submit ourselves again to the rule of England. So we see that in order to adhere to this interpretation of Romans 13:1 7, one must admit that this country was conceived in rebellion and, therefore, could not possibly be "God ordained."

There are many "Christs" (which means ANOINTED) in the world. The spirit of anti Christ is already at work in the world (1 Jn 4:3). Any teaching which teaches one to transgress the law of Yah written upon his conscience, is from the anti anointing. If one submits himself to every government because he thinks all governments are ordained by God, then that person will finally submit himself to the government of the Antichrist himself.

How can those in the government of Yah become part of another government? Wasn't that the very charge against Yahshua? Supposedly, He spoke against the laws and thereby wanted to destroy that government. Wasn't He treasonous in their eyes? How can the government of the earth tolerate Yah's kingdom? There is no common ground. Finally, the evil nature of the worldly governments will be shown in how they treat Yahweh's people. Just as they mistreated and killed Yahshua, it will be the same at the end of this age.

There's no allowance in the governments of the earth for the government of Yah. A government is for those who belong to it and will operate within its limits and boundaries. Anyone who cannot comply must be rejected by that government, whether that person be respectable or unrespectable, murderer or moral man. That's why Yahshua was numbered among the criminals, even though it was obvious to anyone that He was blameless. He was innocent, spotless, and guilty of no sin — yet there was no alternative. He had to die. There was no place in that worldly government for a man whose whole allegiance was to another government. There remains no alternative now. There is none for us. May we stand forever true to the government that will last forever.