

Question: When is it right to rebel against the law of the land?

**Compliance**  
**(Romans 13:1- 4)**

**Intro:** \_\_\_\_\_ is essential when as a Christian we are walking in a fallen world that has little respect for the \_\_\_\_\_ laws of God, that we maintain a right attitude. Belligerence is not a winning strategy and Christ, though firm and always forthright, was never belligerent. On the other hand, rolling over on God is also not a winning strategy. And so, in this week's lesson, we will learn that when we know the truth and stand for the truth, we can respond to godlessness with confidence that exalting God is more important to us than appeasing man.

**I. The seriousness of this issue.**

A. We should glean from our text that it is a very serious thing for Christians to \_\_\_\_\_ against one's government and we should never take it lightly.

1. **Acts 23:5**; - The Apostle Paul when being interrogated, unknowingly \_\_\_\_\_ the High Priest.
2. The conversation that took place is found in verses **1 – 4**, and in verse 5 Paul is straight forward with his \_\_\_\_\_, not in a belligerent manner, just a simple statement of fact.
3. In another instance we find Peter \_\_\_\_\_ the rulers by disobeying their orders to not preach in the name of Jesus – **Acts 5:27 – 29**.
  - a. In **verse 28** the rulers state their prior command.
  - b. In **verse 29**, Peter states, with the other apostles, "**We \_\_\_\_\_ to obey God rather than man.**"
  - c. The word "obey" – that which is necessary; necessity established by the \_\_\_\_\_ and decree of God – the commission, Mark 16:15; and their obedience – **verses 19 & 20**

B. It is \_\_\_\_\_ for us to see in both of these incidences, there was an attitude of respect maintained even though the laws of man were not obeyed.

1. Regardless of our obedience or disobedience to a particular ruler or law, we ought to \_\_\_\_\_ the proper attitude as a law-abiding citizen.

2. When it comes to questionable laws, we should always \_\_\_\_\_ our decisions on the Bible and history.
  - a. History is a testament to unjust laws \_\_\_\_\_ against individuals of faith.
  - b. In Germany, Christian pastors who dared to use their \_\_\_\_\_ and influences to educate the people against Hitler's abuse of power.
    - (1). One such person was Hitler's personal prisoner – Martin Niemoeller.
    - (2). Christians were \_\_\_\_\_ out of Rome, forced to hide in catacombs in order to worship the Lord in direct \_\_\_\_\_ to the prevailing laws.
3. When the Redeemed of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ their Bibles, they will be able to discern the nature and character of laws being passed, the ungodly, not so much.
  - a. However, just because we know their direction, does not mean that a law is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. What should the determining factors be?
    - (1). Initially, a decision should be made whether or not a particular law \_\_\_\_\_ what God commands us to do.
    - (2). When a law \_\_\_\_\_ us to meet together as a church, the law violates both the Word of God and the U. S. Constitution.
      - (a). **Hebrews 10:24 & 25** is God's \_\_\_\_\_ of every Believer.
      - (b). The first Amendment guarantees \_\_\_\_\_ of peaceful assembly.
    - (3). It is therefore, clear that when a government is \_\_\_\_\_ our freedom as a citizen, the government is moving in an unconstitutional direction. When this happens, Christians are rendered helpless when persecution begins, and our rights are being violated, rebellion is not the first avenue of resistance, rather our court system and citizen's vote are two methods of airing our grievances.
  - c. We draw the line where our \_\_\_\_\_ convictions are being abused which trumps our constitution.
  - d. When our government \_\_\_\_\_ we surrender our guns, regardless of how today's modern liberals feel, we have both a right and duty to protest.
  - e. When they demand our Bibles, then we have the option to rebel or \_\_\_\_\_.
  - f. When current laws violate biblical precepts and truths, standing on the Word of God is \_\_\_\_\_ whatever the cost.
4. Having said this, every day of the Believer's life should be a faithful walk of obedience with the Lord and not just a knee-jerk act of righteous indignation when it suits us.