

To Glorify and Enjoy God

LESSON 28: THE CIVIL MAGISTRATE & THE GLORY OF GOD

Intro:

BIG IDEA: The Civil Magistrate was instituted so the _____ can freely glorify & enjoy God.

1. Theocratic: _____ of church & state. Israel & the Holy Roman Empire.
2. _____ of Church and State
3. Two _____ or _____ of responsibility. Augustine → Luther & Calvin → Kuyper

1. God, the supreme Lord and King of all the world, hath ordained civil magistrates, to be, under him, over the people, for his own glory, and the public good: and, to this end, hath armed them with the power of the sword, for the defense and encouragement of them that are good, and for the punishment of evildoers.

- God has _____ that _____ should exist.
- He ordains the _____ of government should exist for a particular people.
- He ordains the _____ magistrates and the length of their term of service.
- The civil magistrate is under the _____ of God who rules over all.
- God has so ordained this for His _____ as well as for the public _____.
- He granted the civil magistrate with the power of the _____: police & military.
- The sword is necessary due to the reality of _____: personal & _____.
- The sword is necessary to defend those who are good from those who are _____.
- The sword encourages the _____ that justice will be done to those who perpetrate evil.

“Adolf Hitler and his Third Reich and Joseph Stalin and his Soviet Union illustrate what happens when government goes berserk and declares its independence from God.” **R.C. Sproul**³⁰¹

“Government is necessary because of evil. Augustine said that civil government is a necessary evil made necessary because of evil.” **R.C. Sproul**³⁰²

“It may be further remarked, that, although God has instituted civil government, yet he has not enjoined any one form of government as obligatory upon all communities.” **Robert Shaw**³⁰³

“.. the task of civil government is to maintain social and civil justice and peace by suppressing violence and social injustice and praising (defending and promoting) those who socially and civilly do what is good.” **Samuel Waldron**³⁰⁴

³⁰¹ Sproul, Vol. 3, pp. 3.

³⁰² Sproul, Vol. 3, pp. 7.

³⁰³ Shaw, pp. 243.

³⁰⁴ Waldon, pp. 286.

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... till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.

Daniel 4

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. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For 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, ⁴for 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. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay 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. **Romans 13**

- God is the source of all _____ authority. Those that exist were instituted by Him.
- Paul sees the government as God's (_____) _____ for our good.
- The sword holds terror only for the wicked, unless it is wielded by the _____.
- The state is often serving God as His _____ (Rom. 12) on those who do wrong.
- This would appear to uphold the _____ penalty as a part of the Noahic covenant.
- Part of this subjection is to pay _____ that are due, as well as respect & honor.

“Governments must have legal force. If they don't, they are no more than advisory committees.”

R.C. Sproul³⁰⁵

“Such an assertion is the more astounding to modern ears because the origin of Roman authority was via conquest, the form of Roman authority was dictatorial and the character of Roman authority was corrupt and shortly would be persecuting.” **Samuel Waldron**³⁰⁶

¹³Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. **1 Peter 2**

- Peter notes the emperor as well as lesser magistrates like _____.
- Those who do good should not simply be protected, but _____ by the government!

³⁰⁵ Sproul, Vol. 3, pp. 7.

³⁰⁶ Waldron, pp. 291.

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2. It is lawful for Christians to accept and execute the office of a magistrate, when called thereunto: in the managing whereof, as they ought especially to maintain piety, justice, and peace, according to the wholesome laws of each commonwealth; so, for that end, they may lawfully, now under the new testament, wage war, upon just and necessary occasion.

- Anabaptists _____ the idea that a Christian can serve as _____.
- The Confession affirms their ability to _____ & execute the office of magistrate.
- As magistrates, Christians should maintain personal faith working for _____.
- The laws they make should reflect “piety” or wholesome living as understood biblically.
- The LBC eliminates “_____” as something Christian magistrates should maintain.
- The magistrate is subject to the _____ of the land. Wholesome vs. unwholesome.
- Calvin: lower magistrate may _____ the _____ laws of the greater.
- The occasions must be just & _____, not simply for colonization & expansion.
- Anabaptism rejected _____ theory due to their _____.

“He is not to act arbitrarily, but must be guided by the standard of God’s Word.” **Robert Shaw**³⁰⁷

“The Bible distinguishes between the personal vocation and duties of individuals and the public vocation and duties of magistrates.” **Samuel Waldron**³⁰⁸

“War is an incalculable evil, because of the lives it destroys, the misery it occasions, and the moral degradation it infallibly works on all sides- upon the vanquished and the victor, the party originally in the right and the party in the wrong.” **A.A. Hodge**³⁰⁹

3. Civil magistrates may not assume to themselves the administration of the Word and sacraments; or the power of the keys of the kingdom of heaven; or, in the least, interfere in matters of faith. Yet, as nursing fathers, it is the duty of civil magistrates to protect the church of our common Lord, without giving the preference to any denomination of Christians above the rest, in such a manner that all ecclesiastical persons whatever shall enjoy the full, free, and unquestioned liberty of discharging every part of their sacred functions, without violence or danger. And, as Jesus Christ hath appointed a regular government and discipline in his church, no law of any commonwealth should interfere with, let, or hinder, the due exercise thereof, among the voluntary members of any denomination of Christians, according to their own profession and belief. It is the duty of civil magistrates to protect the person and good name of all their people, in such an effectual manner as that no person be suffered, either upon pretense of religion or of infidelity, to offer any indignity, violence, abuse, or injury to any other person whatsoever: and to take order, that all religious and ecclesiastical assemblies be held without molestation or disturbance.

- This was “Americanized” to reflect our circumstances: no _____ & no state church.

³⁰⁷ Shaw, pp. 248.

³⁰⁸ Waldron, pp. 288.

³⁰⁹ Hodge, pp. 296.

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- The paragraph from the original is _____ in the *1689 London Baptist Confession*.
- One limit to the power of the magistrate regards jurisdiction over the _____: none.
- The state is not to interfere in matters of _____; what is believed or practiced.
- The state shouldn't use the sword to punish _____ sin; heresy or blasphemy.
- It is the responsibility of the state to _____ the Church.
- The Church should be free from _____ by other groups too.
- Church membership is _____ according to profession & belief.

“It is the church’s function to determine who may or may not be members of its body. The state cannot tell the church who must be accepted into membership.” **R.C. Sproul**³¹⁰

4. It is the duty of people to pray for magistrates, to honor their persons, to pay them tribute or other dues, to obey their lawful commands, and to be subject to their authority, for conscience' sake. Infidelity, or difference in religion, doth not make void the magistrates' just and legal authority, nor free the people from their due obedience to them: from which ecclesiastical persons are not exempted, much less hath the pope any power and jurisdiction over them in their dominions, or over any of their people; and, least of all, to deprive them of their dominions, or lives, if he shall judge them to be heretics, or upon any other pretense whatsoever.

- The people have a duty to the magistrate: _____ for them & _____ them honor.
- We are to pay due _____ as good citizens under their _____.
- We are also to obey “lawful commands”; those that don't _____ with God's.
- A magistrate isn't disqualified by being a _____ or different branch of the Church.
- In civil matters, church officers are not _____ from the jurisdiction of the state.
- Crimes are still _____ (abuse) unless they conflict with the teaching of Scripture.

“In ecclesiastical matters, civil rulers have no rightful jurisdiction; and in civil matters, ecclesiastical persons, as they are members of the commonwealth, are equally bound with others to be subject to the ruling authorities.” **Robert Shaw**³¹¹

“We obey because God wills it, not because we have voluntarily committed ourselves to certain men to whom we have given authority.” **Samuel Waldron**³¹²

¹⁸ So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” **Acts 4**

³¹⁰ Sproul, Vol. 3, pp. 18.

³¹¹ Shaw, pp. 253.

³¹² Waldron, pp. 285.

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First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. **1 Timothy 2**

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." **Matthew 22**

How does this help you glorify God and enjoy Him forever?

Conclusion: