

God And Civil Government

Romans 13:1-7

Kent Bailey

The founders of the United States of America clearly understood and accepted God's design and purpose for civil government. History attests to the fact that they were willing to sacrifice everything to live free in their own nation. When we carefully consider our nation's history, we note that our founders formulated a Constitutional Republic that recognized the unalienable rights of all humanity to their lives, liberty, and property, with minimal governmental interference. America was thus conceived as a magnificent experiment in freedom that was unique in world history. Our existence in this long journey of freedom has **NOT** been an easy one. The freedom won by our forefathers was ultimately extended to all citizens regardless of their place in our society. We must be **One Nation Under God** (Psalm 33:12).

God is the fountain of all authority on earth. Such being the case He has established three divine institutions:

- (1) The home or family;
- (2) The concept of civil government;
- (3) The New Testament church.

All three are different working in different spheres of influence.

While in certain cases there are areas where there is an overlapping of responsibilities, nonetheless, these three institutions are separate with their distinct responsibilities authorized by God. Unfortunately, many hold to an antinomian view and reject the concept of civil government as coming from God. While specific civil governments may and do abuse their delegated authority, such does not make the concept wrong. God cannot and will not be separated from the institutions that He has established. Even though both the nature and work of such may be perverted, such does not change God's intent and purpose for them. Those who seek to change God's requirements for His divinely appointed institutions are guilty of sin. Humanity has various views of all three divine institutions; however, the Scriptures indicate only one correct view of how God has revealed the work of the family, civil government, and the Lord's church. Due to the sake of brevity, we limit our discussion to that of civil government. In the United States there are three separate views of how our nation views the concept of civil government.

The Biblical View This is the pattern that Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to set forth in Romans chapter 13. The Scriptures indicate that God is sovereign over humanity. We are not permitted to walk in our own ways. While God has not viewed any secular nation as being **Christian**, He does require and has always required all nations of the world to recognize His sovereignty as well as His system of ethics, morality, and civility. When these principles are rejected, mass confusion follows. Romans 13 indicates both the responsibility that individuals have to the concept of civil government and to God in this realm (Romans 13:1). Because God has authorized civil governments to exist, as long as civil government exists within the design of God we must obey such. When individuals disobey civil laws that do not conflict with Scriptures such is classified as being sinful (Romans 13:2-3; Jude 6-8). Civil government has obligations to God. Civil government must enact and enforce civil law that promotes proper ethics and civility and that protects its citizens from criminals and rogue nations even to the point of taking human life (Romans 13:4). Because of such we must pay a reasonable amount of taxes (Matthew 22:17-21). In the United States we live in a **constitutional republic** which makes all of the citizens the government. Such necessitates the right and responsibility of voting. We thus have the obligation to vote for elected representatives. While not all U.S. citizens are Christians, thus not all elected officials will be Christians, we must vote for elected officials who will respect our Constitution, uphold its laws, and respect basic ethics, morality, and civility. When we fail in this area, we demonstrate a contempt for God and sign a death warrant for our nation.

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The Traditional Liberal View Such is based upon a false view of the Scriptures and our Constitution. This position places civil government over God and religion. This false view affirms that it is civil government that grants our freedoms and leaves God out of the total situation. Such has civil government rejecting our Constitution as the final authority for civil law and rejects the concept of God being included in government. The proponents of this view falsely advocate the position that the Constitution is changing law and repudiates the Bible as the plenary, verbally inspired word of God. Such a view repudiates both Matthew 22:17-21 and Romans 13. They desire elected professional politicians subjectively to run our nation rather than follow objective truth. This specific view encourages activist judges to attempt to make laws rather than to ascertain the original intent of the authors and properly interpret such. This promotes the false view that anything that is not specifically excluded is allowed. This position has also brought into the church many practices that are not authorized by the New Testament and are sinful.

The Progressive Socialist View This particular view was made popular by Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States from 1913-1921. This particular philosophy evolved into **Secular Humanism** and has brought many problems to our nation:

- (1) Atheism, denying the existence and being of God. All of the unimpeachable evidence regarding the reality of God is cast aside.
- (2) Evolution, adopting an organic view of life rejecting the Biblical view of the dualism of the mind and body. Evolutionists believe that religion does not come from God, but rather anthropology and history.
- (3) Amoralism, that there is no fixed standard of ethics or morality; that humanity decides what is right and wrong.
- (4) The independence of humanity, that **Man Is The Measure**, that we are our own law or standard of authority.
- (5) The Socialistic One-World View, that nationalism is inherently evil. It is interesting that they would attempt to argue this. If man is the measure and he desires to respect the boundaries of nations, then why would such be evil (Acts 17:22-28)?

The Socialistic One-World View believes in a one world government based upon Communism. This political thought pushes the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

One specific major political party in the United States has virtually been taken over by the **Progressive Socialist Movement** and openly advocates:

- Abortion on demand, some even calling for murdering children after they are born.
- Defunding Law Enforcement and the US Military.
- Homosexuality
- Open Borders/Open voting.
- Same Sex Marriages.
- Denying First Amendment and Second Amendment rights.
- Revamping and totally changing the US Constitution.
- The appointment of Activist Judges that become legislators.
- Packing the Supreme Court with Liberal Activist Judges.
- Socialized Government Controlled Medicine.
- Man-Made Climate Change.
- Atheism taking total control of Public Education.
- Higher Taxes.
- Redistribution of wealth.

As citizens "**We The People**" constitute our government. If we permit a **Progressive Socialist** take-over by electing professional politicians our nation will be totally destroyed.

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)
Remember in Prayer:

Darlene Felts has been in NEA this week, Room 4116, dealing with diabetes and low blood pressure issues.
Nita Felts will be having an echocardiogram next week to see if she will be having a new pacemaker procedure.
Virginia London was to see her doctor Friday after her recent surgery.
Tom Carner has been at home improving after his recent surgery.
Victoria Ishmael, mother of Roxanna Loggins, is improving after her bout with pneumonia.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists. Please update us if needed. Also please pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.

In Other News:

There will be a Men's Business Meeting after services this evening.

Daylight Saving Time will end next Sunday, Nov. 1st, so be ready to Fall Back.

We will also have our November Birthday/Anniversary meal after evening service next Sunday night, November 1st, with the theme being Thanksgiving.

Halloween get-together on October 31 at 5 p.m. at the home of Mark and Leah Brewer, 1255 Bermuda Way, Trumann. See Mark or Leah for more information, and costumes are encouraged! (Best Dressed Prize will be awarded.)

Those Privileged To Serve October 25, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
Opening Prayer: Stan Honeycutt
Closing Prayer: Mitch Mosley
Bible Reading: J. L. May
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Mark Wooten
Hillard Holcomb Kevin Roush
Jeff Presley Mike Felts
Donnie Gilliland Carlos Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Oden

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Noah Flanrey
Opening Prayer: Stacy Eddleman
Closing Prayer: Ryan Manley
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

October 28, 2020
Song Leader: Ben Johns
Opening Prayer: Hillard Holcomb
Closing Prayer: Jason Garland

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

October 28, 2020
Terry Joe Kee

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK Week Of October 18, 2020

Sunday Bible Study	71
Sunday AM Worship	102
Sunday PM Worship	63
Wednesday Bible Study	84
Contribution	\$5757

“The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.”

Proverbs 21:1

The Friend of Truth



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“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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KeeNotes

I have just concluded the wonderful opportunity of being in a gospel meeting with the good brethren at Pine Knott. Brother David Flanrey, Noah's dad, is the very capable preacher there. The church there like many today have suffered a setback due to the pandemic and their attendance has suffered due to fear of the virus. This virus is real and surely is affecting us in many, many ways. Remember all of those who are sick and hospitalized due to this virus and pray diligently for God's help to see us through this. Our tomorrows can and need to be better and they will be. Keep trusting in the Lord.

Today we worship on the final Sunday of the month of October. Next month we have Thanksgiving and before you know it we will be celebrating the holidays with our families and another year will be passed. Beginning next Lord's Day let us spend the month of November celebrating our thankfulness for all that God has done and is doing for us daily. Rather than dwelling on the negative things around us, let us dwell on the positive things that are happening and that we can be a part of.

Next Lord's Day will be November 1st. Beginning that Sunday and for the whole month of November we will be worshiping and enjoying Bible classes with *No Excuses*. Beginning next Lord's day forget all the excuses you may have been saving up to use and let every one of us be present and in our place for every service. Let us all be working to check on every member we have who is shut-in, sick, or absent for whatever reason. Let us not allow for any empty seats, except those forced on us by these pandemic guidelines. Let us make our Bible classes full and running over as we rejoice and celebrate our opportunities of coming together. May there not be one member who is absent who the elders, the preacher, and every member are not checking on to see where they are and why they are missing. Yes, there will be those who are absent but NOT for ANY excuse. Let us not look for reasons to stay away, but let us be determined all week that we cannot wait to gather the next time and then be present. There is nothing better than being with our brothers and sisters worshiping God in spirit and in truth.

Also on November 1, we will be celebrating the birthdays and anniversaries for all those in November after services that night. Our theme for November will be “Thanksgiving.” Make plans to come and be with us. Let us all love one another.

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
Randy Oden
Jody Pickens

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Mike Felts
Jason Garland
Marshall Lands
Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Michael Hughes
Samrit Kammanee
Arnold Kelley
Guyana, South America
Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God
John 8:24

Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the remission of your sins
Acts 2:38

Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10

“Where there is no vision, the people perish...”
Proverbs 29:18

God Give Us 2020 Vision in 2020