### Gods Law vs Mans Law

A law is a legal boundary with a consequence (who gets to say what's right and what's wrong?)

**Obey God** - Duet 11:1, John 14:15, James 1:25, Prov 28:9, Duet 11:13, Isa 1:19, John 14:15

**Obey Man -** (<u>Romans 13:1</u>) - "Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God." (<u>1 Peter 2:13</u>) - "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,"

The simple answer is that Christians are to obey human law except where that human law violates God's Law. Our supreme duty is to obey God. Since God tells us to also obey human laws, we should. But, when they come in conflict, we are to *"obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29* 

A LifeWay Research <u>survey</u> from earlier this week has found that only 19 percent of respondents consider America to be a Christian nation. Furthermore, more respondents felt the U.S. is a welcoming place for atheists than for Muslims.

While only 19 percent identified America specifically as a Christian nation, close to 69 percent said that is a "Nation of Many Religions." Another 9 percent suggested it is a secular nation. "Although most Americans are Christians, they understand a nation founded on principles of religious freedom will be a nation of many faiths."

Separation of church and state? Military chaplain prayers reviewed by JAG

Prayer in school? Teach Bible in school?

Preach the gospel in public places? Pray at a high school football game?

## **Biggest issues today (politically)**

Morality - Abortion, Homosexuality,

Socially – welfare, Immigration, health care

Environmentally – stewards of the planet?

Economically – taxes, deficit, government spending

• If we are 100% republican or democrat, were probably not 100% Christian

#### **Politics more important than faith?**

Joshua 5:13,14 - Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?"

The **Johnson Amendment** is a provision in the <u>U.S. tax code</u>, since 1954, that prohibits all <u>501(c)(3)</u> non-profit <u>organizations</u> from endorsing or opposing political candidates. Section 501(c)(3) organizations are the most common type of nonprofit organization in the United States, ranging from <u>charitable foundations</u> to universities and churches. The amendment is named for then-Senator <u>Lyndon B. Johnson</u> of Texas, who introduced it in a preliminary draft of the law in July 1954.

In the 2000s, many politicians, including President <u>Donald Trump</u>, have sought to repeal the provision, arguing that it restricts the free speech rights of churches and other religious groups. These efforts have been criticized because churches have fewer reporting requirements than other non-profit organizations, and because it would effectively make political contributions tax-deductible. On May 4, 2017, President Donald Trump signed an executive order "to defend the freedom of religion and speech" for the purpose of easing the Johnson Amendment's restrictions

# IT READS ... and which does not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

Yesterday, a federal appeals court upheld the

#### Internal Revenue

<u>Service's</u> decision to revoke the tax-exempt status of a church that had paid for newspaper ads against thenpresidential candidate Bill Clinton in 1992.

The revocation is the first in the history of the IRS and serves as a warning from the federal judiciary that churches may not fund partisan activity. U.S. law granting tax-exempt status also forbids tax-exempt organizations from involvement in "any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office."

The Landmark Church, formerly know as the Church at Pierce Creek, in Binghamton, N.Y., requested and received tax-exempt status from the IRS in 1983. But on Oct. 30, 1992, just four days before the presidential election, the church placed full-page ads in USA Today and the Washington Times warning Christians about Clinton.

The ads' headline, "Christians Beware," was followed by a statement that Clinton's positions concerning abortion, homosexuality and the distribution of condoms to teen-agers in schools violate biblical principals. A notice at the bottom of the ad appealed for "tax-exempt donations" to pay for placing the ad. "The advertisements did not go unnoticed," the appeals court said. "They produced hundreds of contributions to the church from across the country and were mentioned in a New York Times article and an Anthony Lewis column which stated that the sponsors of the advertisement had almost certainly violated the Internal Revenue Code.