

Church, Faith and Government?

Church - assembly of Christian believers for the purpose of corporate prayer, worship and bible teaching

Faith - belief, hope and conviction of a deity who rules sovereign. He is creator and sustainer of all things.

Government - limit, restrict or set boundaries for human behaviors and community interaction. To “protect or provide” for the needs of society.

Bible - “hate speech”?

Extremes include cults or communes such as branch davidians in Waco Texas (David Koresch), a military like compound with a stockpile of weapons, 80 people killed in 1993. or the People’s Temple(Jim Jones) from San Francisco to Guyana, east of Venezuela. An agricultural settlement, left 900 dead in 1978.

Do you agree with these statements?

1. Human government is not the final authority.
2. The Bible is Gods word, all by itself, it is the final authority.
3. Preaching the Bible is not an option, it is mandatory and a mandate from God.
4. The “world” has and will stereotype Christians. Especially traditional or conservatives.
5. The “world” and Christians alike tend to separate and divide US vs. THEM.
6. God does not bless rebellion. Submission to a higher authority is the goal.

Janet Reno Attorney General in 1994 - A cultist is one who has a strong belief in the Bible and the Second Coming of Christ; who frequently attends Bible's studies; who has a high level of financial giving to a Christian cause; who home schools for their children; who has accumulated survival foods and has a strong belief in the Second Amendment; and who distrust big government. Any of these may qualify but certainly more than one would cause us to look at this person as a threat, and his family as being in a risk situation that qualified for government interference.

Hebrews 10:25 King James Version (KJV)

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching

Acts 2:46 - Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

Acts 5:29 - Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!

Acts 9:1 - "Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem."

History...

Pompey conquered Jerusalem in 63 BC for Rome. Julius Ceasar conquered Pompey in 45 BC, and recognized Judaism as a legal religion. Tension and uprising finally resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem and the second temple in 70 AD.

For four years then Jerusalem was under siege. Starvation, disease, murder were the order of the day According to Josephus, the historian. 600 Jewish zealots fought to the end on Masada.

In 313 AD, Constantine recognized Christianity as a legal religion until 380 AD when Rome recognized Christianity as the official state church of the empire. Christian emperors persecuted their Jewish subjects and restricted their rights.

In 722 AD, Assyrians conquered and the 12 tribes were dispersed until after ww2.

Did Jesus support or rebel The Roman rule?

The Jewish leaders convinced Rome that Jesus was leading a rebellion. Jesus said, if I were leading a rebellion my followers would take up arms and fight for me.

But Jesus said, give Ceasar what is due Ceasar.

The centurion recognized Jesus authority over all things by faith not by the sword.

Roman rule was a republic and Octavian (Julius Ceasars successor) said he was the first citizen. As opposed to a subject under a Monarch.

Jesus' Threat to the Romans

Polytheistic Roman leaders didn't care about what the Jews considered blasphemy. However, they took threats to Roman power seriously. Jesus was far from the only person gathering a following in Palestine during the first century, and Rome was more than happy to brutally put down any potential uprisings. This Roman dedication to quelling uprisings was not without cause. A few decades after Jesus' death, major uprisings took place in Judea, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths and the eventual destruction of the Temple in AD 70. The area was notoriously prone to rebellion.

Jesus had the dangerous ability to gather a crowd. Thousands at once came to hear Him speak. An especially poignant moment came when Jews from all over the world gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover celebration, filling the city with crowds.

Matthews Gospel especially chapter 21, proclaims Jesus as **THE KING !** (Ruler, one with authority, an opposition to existing Government)