

## Civil Disobedience and the church?

Civil = ordinary citizens and their concerns

Disobey – refuse to comply

Church = group or body of believers who meet together.

**Application** - Purposeful, nonviolent action, or refusal to act, by a Christian who believes such action or inaction is required of him or her in order to be faithful to God, and treated by the governing authorities as a violation of state or national law.

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History:

Corrie Ten Boon –

Dietrich Bonhoeffer –

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Esther 4:14

Matt 22:21

Acts 26:32

Exod 2:3

Dan 6:10

James 4:17

Acts 5:29

Should I Fight for my personal liberties or freedoms as I define “Republic”, “Democracy”

Climate change? Gun control? Abortion?

Vietnam? (Compare our “personal liberties” to other countries)

Marcellus the centurion, who was martyred in A.D. 298, objected to Rome and the emperor. He is quoted as saying in part:

I cease from this military service of your emperors, and I scorn to adore your gods of stone and wood, which are deaf and dumb idols. If such is the position of those who render military service that they should be compelled to sacrifice to gods and emperors, then I cast down my vine-staff and belt, I renounce the standards, and I refuse to serve as a soldier . . . I throw down my arms.

Marcellus renounced soldiering as being unfaithful to his true Lord. When we talk about Christian civil disobedience we are not talking about the focus on private conscience or personal liberty.

We are talking about faithfulness to God which transcends all earthly loyalties.

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There is no “Christian nation” or government. Therefore, as Christians we should expect opposition and understand that we are living in exile in “Babylon” (no matter what country you live in).

- The default position of the Christian is to live in obedience to their government. To live quiet and peaceful lives so as to not stir up the government against us (1 Tim. 2:2; 1 Thess. 4:11).

- Christians are not called to stand up in protest against every law that **allows sin**, but must wrestle with their response to laws that **compel us to do sin**.