

Session 1

God & Government

Dual Citizenship

WE LIVE IN CONSTANT TENSION AS CITIZENS OF TWO WORLDS

- SPIRITUAL / HEAVENLY

Eph 2:6 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

2 Cor 5:17 17Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature, the old things passed away; behold new things have come.

John 17:16 16They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

John 15:18-19 18"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

- PHYSICAL / WORLD / CULTURE

John 17:15 15My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

Matt 5: 13-16 13"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. 14"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Scriptures on Governments Role

➤ New Testament

Romans 13

- 1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.
- 2 Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.
- 3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;
- 4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.
- 5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.
- 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.
- 7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

1 Peter 2

- 13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,
- 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.
- 15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.
- 16 *Act* as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as bondslaves of God.
- 17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

➤ Old Testament

Psalm 82

- 1 God takes His stand in His own congregation; He judges in the midst of the rulers.
- 2 How long will you judge unjustly And show partiality to the wicked?
- 3 Vindicate the weak and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and destitute.
- 4 Rescue the weak and needy; Deliver *them* out of the hand of the wicked.

Isaiah 10

- 1 Woe to those who enact evil statutes And to those who constantly record unjust decisions,
- 2 So as to deprive the needy of justice And rob the poor of My people of *their* rights, So that widows may be their spoil And that they may plunder the orphans.

Lev 9

- 15 You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to the great, but you are to judge your neighbor fairly.

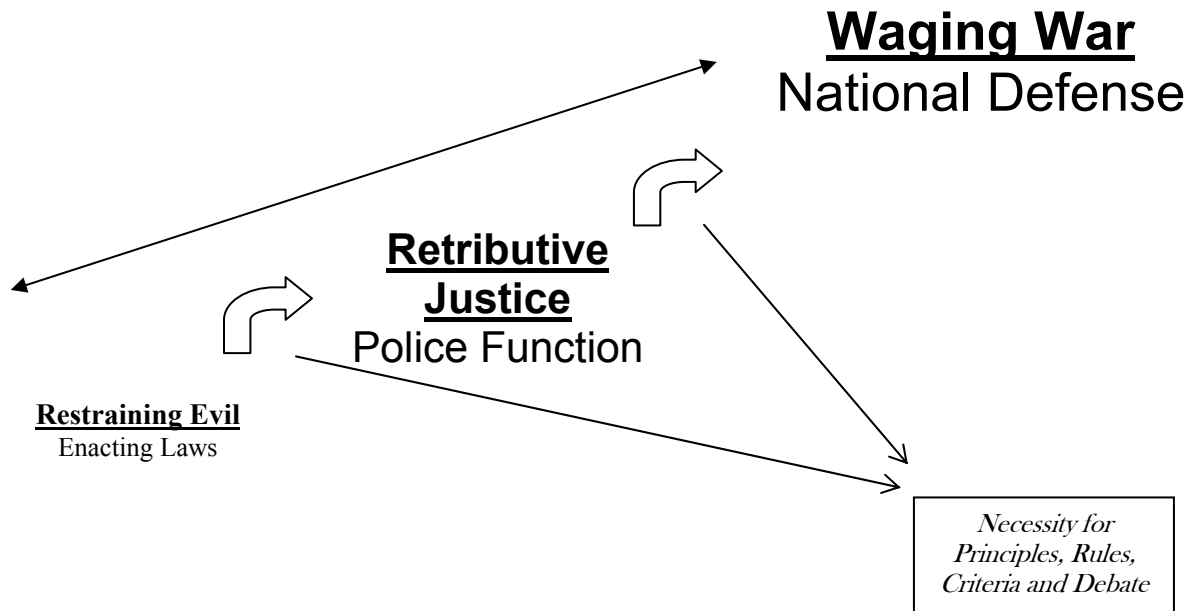
BIBLICAL ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

- GOD ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENT : GOVERNMENT IS SUPPOSED TO ACT AS THE MINISTER OF GOD AND RULERS TO BE SERVANTS OF GOD
- GOVERNMENT IS TO BRING WRATH ON THOSE WHO PRACTICE EVIL
- GOVERNMENT IS TO ACKNOWLEDGE/FOSTER DOING RIGHT
- GOVERNMENT IS TO DUE JUSTICE TO AFFLICTED AND DESTITUTE
- GOVERNMENT IS TO PROTECT THE WEAK, POOR AND NEEDY
- GOVERNMENT IS TO ENACT RIGHTEOUS & IMPARTIAL LAW

Degrees of Restraining Evil

➤ Extension

It would be wonderful if all Government had to do in its call to restrain evil was to enact laws. If we had a righteous Government (i.e. only just laws) and obedient citizens (everyone would abide by the law) But, we live in a fallen world. Thus, there is need for police function. To enforce laws and to punish law breakers. This extends not only to a local level (stop sign in your neighborhood) – but to state level (commerce, travel) but national as well. (borders / invasion). Thus, with every extension there is an extended necessity for debate, criteria, principles and rules.



➤ Escalation

With each level in Governments restraint of evil there is escalation in:

- Complication
- Restraint of Freedoms
- Violence
- Possibilities of Error & Corruption

Christian Responses to War

There have been four major ways in which the Christian community has responded to Governments waging war. We will explore each of these responses in the context of major conflicts in American history.



Absolute
Pacifism

Conscientious
Objection

Just War
Criteria

Theocratic
Warfare