

### Example of how to deal with worldly situations

*Two recent incidents will serve as examples of how Christians should respond to challenging situations in the world. In both cases, law enforcement officers fatally shot individuals while on duty. These events have prompted three distinct responses that must be considered when determining an appropriate Christian reaction.*

- The two individuals did not appear to pose any threat to law enforcement, so the officers should be held fully accountable, and measures must be taken to prevent similar incidents in the future.
- Had both individuals complied with the officers' instructions, the situation likely would not have escalated. The officers were simply carrying out their duties.
- Incidents like these have occurred for many years, yet they often seem to receive attention only when the race of those involved becomes a factor.

**Christians have a responsibility to God with how we are with worldly authority** - Rom 13:1-5- Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been **established by God.** 2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. 4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

**There are specific tasks when it comes to worldly authority we must be aware of** - Titus 3:1-2 - Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do WHATEVER IS GOOD, 2 to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.

**It is NOT our responsibility to hold people of the world accountable** - 1 Cor 5:9-10 - 9 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people — 10 **NOT AT ALL MEANING THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD** who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.

**Christians should be held accountable** - 1 Cor 5:11-13 - 1 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. **With such a man do not even eat.** 12 **What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church?** Are you not to judge those inside?

**\*\*\*Be warned, though we are to be subject to worldly leadership, we ARE NOT to just blindly obey. Ungodly guided "complying" to worldly leadership will lead to eternal destruction** - Rev 14:9-12 - 9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone **worships the beast and his image and receives his mark** on the forehead or on the hand, 10 **he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury,** which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. **He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.** 11 And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name." 12 This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and **remain faithful to Jesus.**

**The main thing is to make sure we are doing what God says** - Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "**WE MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN!**"

**We must follow what Christ says, not what we see or feel** - 2 Tim 2:3-5 - 3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 **No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs** — he **wants to please his commanding officer.**

**Scripture never assigns Christians to be responsibility for...**

- The evils of the world and government
- The evils of worldly people
- Our opinions on how the world should function or not function
- Fixing the world

**God warned that the mistreatment of the underprivileged happens, and it will be a byproduct of those living to be rich** - Eccl 5:8-11 - 8 If you see the poor oppressed in a district, and justice and rights denied, do not be surprised at such things; for one official is eyed by a higher one, and over them both are others higher still. 9 The increase from the land is taken by all; the king himself profits from the fields. 10 **Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income.** This too is meaningless. 11 As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?

**What we are commanded to do is to advocate for the voiceless, oppressed, homeless, poor, and needy**

**Christians are responsible for the less fortunate and less valued**- Prov 31:8-9 - 8 "**Speak up** for those who cannot **speak** for themselves, **for the rights** of all who are **destitute.** 9 **Speak up** and **judge fairly;** **defend the rights of the poor and needy.**" →

- **Speak up** – In letters, meetings, in actions (financial protests, participation, protests...)
- **Equal rights** – Take everything in to consideration, making things equal through God for this group
- **Judge fairly** – The only “fair judgement” is through God.
- **Defend** – We stand to protect this group. We may provide finances for this cause. Treat as if it is your own family

**Understand, the main example to our actions will be based knowing who we are and on how we live** - 1 Peter 2:11-12 - 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to **abstain from sinful desires**, which war against your soul. 12 **Live SUCH GOOD lives among the pagans** that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

**Make sure all reactions are fairly based on God** - James 2:9 But **IF YOU SHOW FAVORITISM, you sin** and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. \* **Favoritism is any unequal treatment that does not align with God’s purpose.**

**How we treat the underprivileged shows how we really feel about God** –

Prov 14:31 He who oppresses THE POOR shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

Prov 17:5 He who mocks THE POOR shows contempt for their Maker; whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished.

**God takes EVERYTHING in to consideration when he speaks on unbalance and unfairness which he hates**

Prov 11:1 - The Lord abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.

Prov 16:11 Honest scales and balances ARE FROM THE LORD; all the weights in the bag are of his making.

Prov 20:10 Differing weights and differing measures — THE LORD DETESTS THEM BOTH.

Prov 20:23 The Lord detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please him.

**Those who harm the underprivileged are considered as part of the vilest sinners** - Mal 3:2-5 "So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but **do not fear me**," says the Lord Almighty.

**How we deal, must be done the way God says** - Rom 12:17-19 - 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do WHAT IS RIGHT in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 **Do not take revenge**, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

**We will have to judge, make sure it’s correct** - John 7:24 **Stop judging by mere appearances**, and make a right judgment.

**Like Jesus, walking by Faith means we trust in God ONLY**

John 8:15-16 - 15 **You judge by human standards**; I PASS JUDGMENT ON NO ONE. 16 But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. **I STAND WITH THE FATHER, WHO SENT ME.**

John 5:30 **By myself** I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for **I seek not to please myself** but **HIM WHO SENT ME.**

**All Christians’ desires and viewpoints CAN NEVER be “the purpose”, and we MUST take everyone in to consideration** - Phil 2:3-4 - 3 **Do nothing out of SELFISH AMBITION** or **VAIN CONCEIT**, but **in humility** consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**Ignoring matters is sin** - James 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, SINS.

**Make sure our lives represent God ALL THE TIME** - 1 Peter 2:12 **Live such good lives among the pagans** that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

**Keep Spiritually focused because the battle is spiritual** - Eph 6:12 For our struggle IS NOT AGAINST flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

**Stop approaching things the way the world does** - 2 Cor 10:3 For though we live in the world, we DO NOT wage war as the world does.

**The core problem to all of this confusion is our ungodly partnerships** –

1 Cor 15:33 **Do not be misled**: "**Bad company corrupts good character**."

2 Cor 6:14-16 - 14 **Do not be yoked together with unbelievers**. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 **What harmony** is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 **What agreement** is there between the temple of God and idols? For **WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD**. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and **I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY WILL BE MY PEOPLE**."