

Do I Have to Follow the Law?

by Carolyn Webb

I had a conversation recently that gave me pause. I was discussing legal requirements related to my job when the person with whom I was conversing said "I don't care what the law says. That just gets in the way of getting things done." He went on to use the example of David eating the priest's food in the temple as evidence that it isn't necessary to follow all laws. Does God really say it is ok to ignore some laws just because they get in the way of what we want to accomplish?



As I investigated the story that was referenced, I found that David really didn't break any laws. The priest gave the bread to David only after confirming that the men who would eat it had not been with women, in keeping with the law. (See 1 Samuel 21 v 4-6.) The law was not ignored.

As I explored this topic a little deeper, I found 1 Peter 2:13-17 which says "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing he may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free and not using liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honor all. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king." (KJV) No mention here of ignoring the laws of the land here either. God gives authority to men to keep things orderly on earth and we are expected to honor that authority. No one questioned the authority of the laws given in the Old Testament, but when Jesus healed the sick, drove out demons, forgave sins and raised the dead, church leaders questioned his authority. In Matthew 28:18 (NIV) Jesus says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." And yet, he subjected himself to the authority of earthly law to bring about God's plan for our eternal salvation.

Surely there are laws that we disagree with. However unless those laws contradict God's laws or God's plan of salvation, we are to follow our nation's laws. All the more reason that as Election Day approaches we take a serious look at the values of the people we elect. Will they stand for what is right in God's eyes? Choose your leaders wisely.



Season: Lent

Videos: 15. Drop that Stone.

19. Are We Imitators of Christ?

Devotions: 13. Do You Need a Doctor?

38. Prisoners of Sin

86. The Power of Meditation

116. My Cactus Pricked My Heart

131. Speed Bumps

189. Shocks the Conscience

201. Victims

Prayers: 13. Heavenly Father, thank you for providing us with faithful pastors...

14. Almighty God, our Fortress in times of trouble, today...

Super Girl: 40. So in everything, do to others what you would have them...

Scripture References: Romans 13:1, 5; Proverbs 8:15; Isaiah 9:6; Daniel 7:13; Matthew 11:27; Matthew 26:64; Luke 1:33; John 3:31, 35; Acts 10:36; Romans 14:9

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