
“As there is a degree of depravity in mankind which requires a certain degree of circumspection and distrust, so there are other qualities in human nature, which justify a certain portion of esteem and confidence. Republican government presupposes the existence of these qualities in a higher degree than any other form.” -Madison, Federalist Papers #55

3. Consent of the governed

4. Protect minorities against the tyranny of the majority.

Duties of citizens

1 Peter 2:16 Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

*Romans 13:7 Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, **pay taxes**; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then **respect**; if honor, then **honor**.*

How are we to think about our context and government?

- Power s_____ and dispersed.
- P_____ and policy.
- Politicians:

P 1: Dignity; Depravity; order; law; rights. P 2: Punish; Ruler; rights. P. 3: People. Limited. Separation. P. 4: Shared; Platforms;

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The Role of Government

Our Biblical Worldview—part 3

September 20, 2020

Understanding God’s design of government

■ The doctrine of man informs our view of government ■

a. D_____.

Genesis 1:26 "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

b. D_____.

■ *Titus 3:3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures....* ■

God-ordained purposes of government

a. Bring O_____.

■ *1 Timothy 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- ²for kings and all those in authority, **that** we may live **peaceful** and **quiet lives** in all godliness ...* ■

Ecclesiastes 8:11 (RSV) Because sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the sons of men is fully set to do evil.

b. Uphold natural moral l____ & secure negative r_____.

1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

c. P _____ sin (crime)

*Romans 13:1 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*

Understanding our American context

Governments faces two daunting problems because of sin:

1. How to keep citizens from violating others' rights.
2. How to keep government from violating citizens' rights.

Four biblical principles in the Declaration of Independence

1. God is the R _____ of the world: supreme legislator, executive and judge.

*Isaiah 33:22 For the LORD is our **judge**, the LORD is our **lawgiver**, the LORD is our **king**; it is he who will save us.*

2. God is the Creator and giver of r _____, not men: Gen. 1

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

3. P _____ are sovereign over a king. Government's purpose is to secure and defend rights, not give rights

Matthew 20:26 (RSV) It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave;

"That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,"

4. Unjust government should be opposed, altered or abolished by the people.

Acts 4:29 We must obey God rather than men.

"Whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

Biblical principles within the US Constitution

1. L _____ constitutional government.

2. S _____ of powers.

a. Sinfulness checks sinfulness. "Checks and balances."

"If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself." -James Madison, Federalist Papers, #51