

An Unjust Death, Peaceful Protests, & Violent Riots

I. The Key Issue is Justice.

A. Our God is completely, unwaveringly committed to justice that is untainted by prejudice.

B. As those who call Him Father, we should be equally committed to justice without prejudice.

C. We should pursue justice.

- We must root out the sins of partiality, prejudice, and hatred from our own hearts.
- We should pray the truth will come out and justice will truly be done in this situation.
- We should insist our leaders practice justice without partiality.

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II. The Real Problem is Sin.

A. The Sin of Slavery (Ex. 21:16; Dt. 24:7; 1 Tim. 1:10)

B. The Sin of Racism

1. Partiality/Prejudice (Jam. 2:1-10)

2. Hatred (Titus 3:3)

C. The Sin of Anger, Bitterness, & Violence (Rom. 12:14-21; Eph. 4:31-32)

III. The Only Lasting Solution is the Gospel (Eph. 2:13-16; 1 John 4:10-11).

IV. The Only Perfect Ruler is Jesus Christ (Is. 42:3-4).

Theories of the Origin of the State

1. The *Evolutionary/Patriarchal* Theory
2. The *Force* Theory
3. The *Divine Right* Theory
4. The *Social Contract* Theory
5. The *Marxist* Theory

A Gospel Response to Government

Romans 13:1-7

I. A Universal Command to Submit to Government (1a)

A. The Biblical Exceptions

1) The legitimate response by individuals to gov't abuses...

- a. Acknowledge and graciously speak against the sins and legal abuse of leaders (Dan. 5:22-23; Mt. 23; Mk. 6:18).
- b. Request a personal exception in the law (Dan. 1:8).
- c. Use all legal means provided by existing law.
- d. Flee unlawful and unjust arrest & punishment (Mt. 10:23; Jn. 11:53-54; Acts 9:23-25).
- e. Disobey the gov't only when they require you to break God's law (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29; e.g., Ex. 1:16-17; Dan. 3:18; 6:10).

2) The legitimate response by subordinate authorities in government to gov't abuses

- a. Use all the means available to individuals.
- b. Disobey when laws or executive orders will unjustly cause the death of innocents, and there are no other means (Esther 4:15-16).
- c. Disobey when laws or executive orders are contrary to the law of the land.
- d. Resist with force an unlawful, internal takeover of the government.
- e. Remove, with force if necessary, any government official seeking to replace the current government and its laws.

A Gospel Response to Government

Romans 13:1-7

I. A Universal Command to Submit to Government (1a)

II. The Reasons to Submit to Government (1b-6)

A. God established the principle and structures of all human authority (1b).

1. God is the only true, ultimate authority (2 Ch. 20:6; Ps. 24:1; 47:7-8; 103:19; 135:6; Dan. 4:35).
2. God has delegated limited authority to people.

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- a. God gave **husbands** authority within marriage (Eph. 5:22-24; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:1).
- b. God gave **parents** authority over their children (Luke 2:51; cf. Eph. 6:1-3).
- c. God gave **elders** authority over the function and membership of a local church (Acts 20:28; 1 Th. 5:12; 1 Pet. 5:5; Heb. 13:17).
- d. God gave **human government** authority over its citizens (Dan. 4:17; 5:18-21; Jn. 19:11; Rom. 13:1-7; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:13-17).