

“WHAT ABOUT TURNING THE OTHER CHEEK?”

Matthew 5:38 – 39 – ³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ ³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

Jesus is **not** addressing _____ or _____ in this verse . . . he is talking to _____ about how they deal with other individuals . . . especially people who _____.

IS IT EVER RIGHT FOR CHRISTIANS TO USE LETHAL FORCE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, THEIR FAMILIES, OR OTHERS?

Vengeance is: _____ that is inflicted in return for a wrong.

Self-defense is: the use of _____ yourself, your family, and your property against physical attack.

Luke 22:36 – 38 – ³⁶ He said to them, “But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. ³⁷ It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.” ³⁸ The disciples said, “See, Lord, here are two swords.” “That is enough,” he replied.

TAKE-AWAYS

1. Recognize human, civil government as a _____ to protect people living in a fallen, dangerous world.
2. Be the kind of person who _____.
*Romans 13:13 – Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then **do what is right** and he will commend you.*
3. Be an _____.



Part 2

God & Government: The Purpose of Civil Government

BIBLICAL BASIS FOR CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Genesis 9

Romans 13

1 Peter 2:13 – 14

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

1. PUNISH/RESTRAIN EVIL & ENCOURAGE/REWARD GOOD

Genesis 9:5 – 6 – ⁵ And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. ⁶ “Whoever sheds the blood of man, **by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.”**

Romans 13:1 – 7 – ¹ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is right, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶

For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

1. _____ has appointed the authorities that have the power to govern. (v. 1 & 2)

2. Civil authorities are _____ to be a “_____ to bad conduct” (v. 3)

3. Civil authorities are _____ to _____ good conduct – promote the general welfare of the people. (v. 3)

4. Civil authorities _____. (v. 4 & 6)

5. When civil authorities function the way God intended we should _____ and _____ them because they are acting as “ministers of God.”

6. Civil authorities are “_____” when they execute **God’s wrath** on wrongdoers. (v. 4).

1 Peter 2:13 – 14 – ¹³ *Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.*

PRINCIPLE: If we fail to **govern ourselves**, a larger, more powerful force will **exert control** for us.

John Adams: “Our Constitution was made only for **moral** and **religious** people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

2. CIVIL GOVERNMENT SHOULD UPHOLD JUSTICE AND DEFEND THE WEAK

Psalms 82:2 – 4 – ² “How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? ³ Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. ⁴ Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

3. CIVIL GOVERNMENT SHOULD DETER CRIME BY CARRYING OUT SWIFT PUNISHMENT

Ecclesiastes 8:11 – *When a crime is not punished quickly, people feel it is safe to do wrong. (NLT)*

Deuteronomy 21:18 – 21 – ¹⁸ *If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, ¹⁹ his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. ²⁰ They shall say to the elders, “This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a profligate and a drunkard.” ²¹ Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.*

4. CIVIL GOVERNMENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO DEFEND THEIR PEOPLE FROM ATTACKS BY OTHER NATIONS

Deuteronomy 20:1 – 4 – ¹ *When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you. ² When you are about to go into battle, the priest shall come forward and address the army. ³ He shall say: “Hear, O Israel, today you are going into battle against your enemies. Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not be terrified or give way to panic before them. ⁴ For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.”*

DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

DOES EXODUS 20:13 PROHIBIT TAKING A HUMAN LIFE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE?

“You shall not murder.” – *Exodus 20:13 (NIV)*

The Hebrew word translated “murder” here is *ratsakh* and it is used **40 times** in the OT.

- It is **never** used to refer to _____.
- It is **not** used to refer to _____.
- “*Ratsakh*” the unlawful killing of another human being or causing human death through carelessness or negligence.