

The Book of Acts: #ObeyGod

Acts 4:13-22

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In the presence of some people, you walk away feeling extinguished.

In the presence of others you walk away distinguished.

Peter and John were average men, fishermen by trade, before following Jesus, but after three years in the presence of JESUS, they became extraordinary leaders who changed the course of history.

Acts 4:13 (KJV)

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Ignorant—Greek: idiots, men of no profession, private individuals, in a word, laymen.

YOUR ASSOCIATIONS DETERMINE YOUR DESTINATIONS!

Show me your friends and I'll show you your future!

Acts 4:14-22 (NLT)

¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say. ¹⁵ So they ordered Peter and John out of the council chamber and conferred among themselves. ¹⁶ "What should we do with these men?" they asked each other. "We can't deny that they have performed a miraculous sign, and everybody in Jerusalem knows about it.

¹⁷ But to keep them from spreading their propaganda any further, we must warn them not to speak to anyone in Jesus' name again." ¹⁸ So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, "Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him?" ²⁰ We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard."

²¹ The council then threatened them further, but they finally let them go because they didn't know how to punish them without starting a riot. For everyone was praising God ²² for this miraculous sign—the healing of a man who had been lame for more than forty years.

Acts 5:29 (NKJV)

²⁹ But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.

Civil Disobedience

When man's laws clash with God's laws, God's laws must be obeyed at all cost.

Romans 13:1-2 (NLT)

¹ Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. ² So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.

1 Peter 2:13-14 (TLB)

¹³ For the Lord's sake, obey every law of your government: those of the king as head of the state, ¹⁴ and those of the king's officers, for he has sent them to punish all who do wrong, and to honor those who do right.

Titus 3:1-2 (NLT)

¹ Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. ² They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone.

Matthew 22:21 (NKJV)

²¹ They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Examples of Civil Disobedience in Scripture

Jewish midwives in (Ex. 1).

Moses' parents (Hebrews 11:23).

Daniel (Dan. 1; 6), and the three Hebrew children (Dan. 3).

Mordecai and Haman (Esther 3:5).

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God."

Exodus 20:4-6 (NKJV)

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

The Separationist Response

Only God's authority is accepted. Caesar's authority is denied.

The Secular Response

God's authority is rejected, and Caesar's authority is accepted.

The Scared Response

Caesar's authority is accepted, and God's authority is rejected.

The Scriptural Response

The fourth response is God and Caesar's authority is accepted but with God in the supreme role.

Who Has Authority?

Church elders have authority.

Parents have authority. Husband is the head.

Bosses have authority.

Police have authority.

You have authority in Christ.

1 Samuel 15:22-23 (NKJV)

²² So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. ²³ For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."