

**Title:** How to be a Pro-Life Christian Under a Pro-Choice Governor

**Passage:** 1 Peter 2:13-17

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Draft Summary:

*Question:*

How should the Christian who believes God's Word and believes in the sanctity of human life but face an anti-Biblical agenda by the government we live under?

*Answer:*

1. We should acknowledge that all government authorities are established by God and comes from God
2. We should remind ourselves and our leaders that their God-given responsibilities is to promote good and restrain evil.
3. We will honor the laws that do not conflict Christ's reign and authority over our lives
4. If our government prohibits us what the Bible commands or command us to do what the Bible prohibits, then we should consider engaging in civil disobedience

*Practical Responsive Steps:*

1. Pray for our leaders and those in authority.
2. Pray also for those involved in the abortion business.
3. Consider being involved and supporting the local pregnancy care center.
4. Consider foster care or adoption.
5. Consider supporting political candidates and laws that value the unborn life.
6. Be intentional in making disciples.
7. Be full of grace and kindness who are pregnant.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
  - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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## **EXPOSITION**

### **Introduction**

Today (January 22, 2023) is the 50th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision (1973) that found a constitutional right of abortion.

- Last year, the Supreme Court overruled that decision that there is no U.S. Constitutional right to abortion (a legal fiction) and reverting the right to the states

**Question:**

How should the Christian who believes God's Word and believes in the sanctity of human life but face an anti-Biblical agenda by the government live under?

**Passage:**

1 Peter 2:13-17

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

**Context of Passage:**

Author

- Peter is writing to Christians who are scattered throughout the Roman Empire.
  - Due to persecution by Emperor Nero

Emperor Nero of Roman Empire

- Came to power after his mother poisoned the prior emperor.
- He later became paranoid that others would take over him.
  - Started killing his surrounding family
- Rome - major fire
  - Some thought Nero caused this.
  - Nero blamed Christians.
    - Then started capturing and torturing Christians.

Peter knew of other bad rulers/leaders

- He was not naive about corrupt political leaders
  - Pontius Pilate
  - Herod Antipas

Point: if Peter could command the Christians of that time to obey and honor Nero, how should we similarly obey today?

## **Practical Applications**

### ***1. We should acknowledge that all government authorities are established by God and comes from God.***

- we submit in obedience not to man but ultimately to God.

Job 12:23-25

He makes nations great, and he destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away. He takes away understanding from the chiefs of the people of the earth and makes them wander in a trackless waste. They grope in the dark without light, and he makes them stagger like a drunken man.

Daniel 2:20-21

Daniel answered and said:

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;

Romans 13:1

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. We should remind ourselves and our leaders that their God-given responsibilities is to promote good and restrain evil.***

Romans 13:4

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.

- government leaders should see themselves as God's servant

**Truth:** Good and evil does exist. God's Word decides what is right and wrong.

Psalms 139:13-16

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the

earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Isaiah 44:24

Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb:

"I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,

- God's Word is clear that life is within the womb.
- God instituted government to restrain evil and promote good, which is in the Bible that reflect His principles and truth.

**Claim:** We cannot legislate morality

- On one hand, can't pass laws because it is a matter of heart.
- But every law requires ethics. Consider murder. One cannot be personally against murder but say not legislate laws against murder.
- Government exists to restrain evil, inc

### ***3. We will honor the laws that do not conflict Christ's reign and authority over our lives.***

1 Peter 2:13

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him

- We are to submit to government laws to the degree they do not conflict against Christ.
- We give up our rights for the sake of others.
  - Ex; driving rules, tax regulations, etc.

We cannot and should not submit when we are asked to sin and disobey our heavenly king.

### ***4. If our government prohibits us what the Bible commands or command us to do what the Bible prohibits, then we should consider engaging in civil disobedience.***

Acts 5:27-29

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem

with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.

- Civil disobedience should never be violent.
  - Use all means to combat the wrongs (ex: peaceful protests, lawsuits in courts or administrative proceedings)
- It is a matter of last resort, not first resort.
- Should be public, not hidden. Because intent is to change laws and institutions.

Acts 25:10-11

But Paul said, "I am standing before Caesar's tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well. If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar."

- Paul publicly appeals to Caesar rather than his situation be kept quiet.
- We should be willing to accept the penalty for breaking the law.

Matthew 10:28

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

## **Practical Responsive Steps**

### ***1. Pray for our leaders and those in authority.***

1 Timothy 2:1-2

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

### ***2. Pray also for those involved in the abortion business.***

- many have turned away over time.

**3. Consider being involved and supporting the local pregnancy care center.**

- Both men and women volunteer opportunities.
- Financially support the center as well.
- Carefully consider where spend your money in general.
  - Consider researching whether companies you shop or engage also support abortion and thereafter consider changing your shopping habits or how you steward the money God has given you.

**4. Consider foster care or adoption.**

- Help and support those involved in these areas.

**5. Consider supporting political candidates and laws that value the unborn life.**

- Contrast: one that doesn't value unborn life will not value life outside the womb.
- Evaluate and research the track history of candidates and laws that are being considered.
- Vote! And vote Biblically.

**6. Be intentional in making disciples.**

- Most abortions occur when women are single.
- Men need to step up and take care of the responsibilities and results of their choices.
- Older persons need to disciple others to make Biblical choices.

2 Timothy 2:2

and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

**7. Be full of grace and kindness who are pregnant.**

- Do we value the life within the womb regardless of the circumstances?
- Do we come alongside others in need?

1 Thessalonians 2:8

So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

**For Those Who Have Supported Abortion:**

- God is the judge for women who have aborted babies, men who have approved, those who have done nothing against abortion.
  - Unless you have repented, you will never see the kingdom of God.
- The Good News is also the Savior of sinners. He offers complete forgiveness. He forgives entirely.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Isaiah 43:25

"I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

Psalms 103:12

as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Luke 7:49-50

Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

- God can restore you completely from your sins.