

Civil (and Uncivil) Disobedience
Acts 4:1-22; Rom.13:1-7; I Pet.2:13-17

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 Disclaimers
- 0.2 We need healthy, committed approach to public life
- 0.3 “What goes around, comes around”

1.0 Civil & Political Environment of Early Christians

- 1.1 The Palestinian-Jewish leadership mixed: Annas & Co., and more generations to come
- 1.2 Roman society under “imperial” reign: emperors who often perceived as gods
- 1.3 Religious and political positions of Jews & Romans was diverse

2.0 Clear Counsel on Civil Relationships

- 2.1 “Let each be in subjection to governing authorities” (Rom.13:1; Titus 3:1)
 - helpful context for this – I Pet.2:13-17
- 2.2 Times for resistance – Ac.4:1-22
 - when genuinely doing good for others (v.9)
 - when God has clearly directed otherwise (v.19)
- 2.3 Speaking *to* authorities vs. acting *through* authoritative law
 - Jesus had dim view of Herod Antipas, “that fox” (Lk.13:32)
 - Jesus knew the corruption of Annas/Caiaphas (Matt.26:63-64; Jn.18:23)
 - Paul saw hypocrisy of various leaders (Ac.23:1-5)
- 2.4 Pray for civil authorities (I Tim.2:1-3)

3.0 Encouragement for Us Now

- 3.1 It is too easy to hold others in contempt; let’s reach for kindness
- 3.2 In the civil sphere – as in the ecclesiastical – we only get partial successes
- 3.3 Our country has changed: super-privatization
- 3.4 “Walk in love, just as Christ loved you” (Eph.5:2)

Next week (July 17):

(Morning) The Fifth Gospel – Jn.13:33-35

(Evening) Salt & Light – Matt.5:13-16