



95. Is it Legal?

“They commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.’ Acts 4:18-20

Being a Christian is no justification for disobeying the government. Jesus answered, when asked about paying taxes, *“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's,”* Mark 12:17. The Apostle Peter wrote, *“Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the*

will of God,” 1 Peter 2:13-15. And the Apostle Paul wrote, *“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God,”* Romans 13:1. An obedient disciple of Jesus is not an anarchist.

However, if obeying the government means disobeying God [in an either-or choice] choose obedience to God. Peter and John made that choice. Don't be foolish. Be wise. Be shrewd as a serpent and innocent as a dove, Matthew 10:16. But obey God even if your government orders you not to obey God. Peter and John proclaimed the Gospel when it was against the law. Would you? Is witnessing legal or illegal where you live? And are you proclaiming the Gospel there?

www.NotJustMilk.org ... written by John D. Morris III

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