## A Jesus Follower's Response to Civil Authority

- 1. Governments and Civil Authorities are:
  - A. v.1 Established by God
  - B. v.4a God's servants
  - C. v.4b God's servants
  - D. v.6 God's servants
- 2. Our Response:
  - A. v.1 be subject to authorities
  - B. v.2 do not rebel
  - C. v.3 do what is right
  - D. v.5 submit
  - E. v.7 give to everyone what you owe them
    - i. taxes
    - ii. revenue
    - iii. respect
    - iv. honor
- 3. Yeah, but..... What about....?
- 4. Why we should respond this way
  - A. v.3 to be commended
    - -for God's sake (1 Peter 2:13)
  - B. v.4 to avoid punishment
  - C. v.5 because it's a matter of conscience
  - D. Because Jesus calls us to something bigger:

Matthew 28:19-20- <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

E. Because Jesus modeled this for us

John 18:36-36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

F. Because the present contemporary political environment is no threat to the Kingdom of God

Matthew 16: 18-19 ...I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

G. Because we're called to be counter-cultural and different

Rom 12:1-2- <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- 5. How do we do this?
  - 1. Think differently
    - -Hunt the good stuff
  - 2. Keep the main thing the main thing
    - -Be a missionary
  - 3. Use the Oreo principle
    - -build/enhance/honor the relationship