

CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Biblical Principles:

- 1) God established nations (Gen 10; Deut 32:8; Acts 17:26) and civil government (Rom 13:1). The two primary purposes of civil government are: a) punish the wicked and b) encourage good behavior and protect the innocent (Rom 13:2-7; I Tim 2:1-4; I Pet 2:13-14; I Tim 1:8-10).
- 2) Christians should submit to government authorities (Mt 22:21; Rom 13:1; I Pet 2:13), as long as there is no conflict with God's law. If there is a conflict, we should obey God rather than men (Acts 5:27-29; Dan 3:13-18, 28-29).
- 3) Christians should exercise civil influence and get involved with government (i.e. politics). Our involvement should start with prayer (I Tim 2:1; Neh 9; II Chron 7:14; Jer 29:7), but also include direct involvement.