of man for Christ's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well."

Christians are duty bound to obey the civil magistrate and conform to every law issuing from the civil sphere of government ***until the laws of man place the Christian in conflict with God and Scripture. When the Christian is placed in conflict with Scripture, he is duty bound to obey God rather than man.*** The same principles apply with respect to the family and the church. The wife is bound to the law of her husband, even when she may not approve of that law. The wife can rebel against the husband only when she is charged with a comand that will place her in conflict with God and Scripture. When civil magistrate requires that we submit to a law that violates our conscience with God and Scripture, the Christian is duty bound to obey God rather than man.

We are now living in a time of history when Christians will be required, along with the rest of the population, to submit to laws which we may not agree with or like; but we obey them anyway. ***Only when those laws place us in direct conflict with Scripture does the Christian determine to obey God rather than man.*** In order to clarify where Scripture draws lines with respect to obedience or disobedience to the power of a civil magistrate, the following citations will be given. Firstly, let us consider some laws which we may not necessarily like, but which require our obedience. Secondly, we will consider some areas where Scripture would require that we obey God rather than man.

Laws That Require Our Obedience

1. The registration of a motor vehicle: there is no Scripture in the Bible that can be used in support of resisting the registration of motor vehicles on public highways.

2. The use of a valid drivers license to operate a motor vehicle: no Scripture will support the lawful resistance of this ordinance of man.

3. The payment of local, state, or federal taxes: we may not like to pay taxes, but we are promised that when we fail to live under God and His law and pay tithe, we shall make payment in taxes (I Samuel 8, Matthew 17:27, Matthew 22:17-21, Romans 13:6,7, and I Peter 2:13, 14, 21).

4. Any act of civil disobedience that cannot be defended from Scripture: this includes entry onto private and public property to engage in acts that deprive others of their liberty. Examples: Defacing water towers and public buildings, physically blocking entry into a farmer's field to prevent him from spraying crops, physically disrupting a public water supply to prevent the city's use of chemicals, or physically blocking entry into privately owned abortion murder mills.

5. Obedience to speed laws on public roadways is an ordinance of man that must be obeyed. No Scripture can be used to support resistance to speed laws on public roadways.

There would be legions of other laws that although very unpopular, perhaps unnecessary, and even costly and inconvenient, ***must be obeyed. Parents often establish rules that the children do not like; but they still expect obedience from the children.*** Such is the case in the civil sphere of government. When a nation is running wild before God, living apart from Covenant Law, and making no attenpt to live in the fear of God and His Word, the civil magistrates will be used by a Sovereign God to minister judgment upon those people in the form of tyranny and oppression. Such is the case within the United States of America in this generation.

Man's Laws That Must Not Be Honored

1. Any government mandate that requires killing of babies must ***never*** be obeyed. Government mandated abortion would be in direct violation of God and Scripture (Exodus 1 & 2).

2. Government confiscation of private hunting and sporting guns could ***never*** be honored. The confiscation of private firearms would be a violation of God and Scripture (St. Luke 22:36-38).

3. Government demands that we spy on our neighbors and supply life threatening information about them to government agencies could ***never*** be honored. This would be a violation of Scripture (Psalm 15:3, Joshua 2, Proverbs 11:13).

4. Government demands that prayer be terminated could ***never*** be honored. This would violate the conscience of every Christian (Daniel 6).

5. Government demands that worship be made to a god other than Jesus Christ could ***never*** be obeyed. This violates Scripture and offends Yahweh (Daniel 3).

6. Government demands that we keep Sabbath on a day other than the seventh day could ***never*** be honored (Genesis 2:2,3, Exodus 20:8-11).

7. Government demands that no private worship services could be conducted in our homes could ***never*** be honored. This violates the Scriptural injunction of the right of the Church to meet in private homes (I Corinthians 16:19, Romans 16:5).

8. Government demands that the Church be licensed could ***never*** be honored. The Scripture places Jesus Christ as Head of the Church (St. Matthew 16:18, Col. 1:18, Eph. 1:22).

9. Government demands that ministers be licensed could ***never*** be honored. This places Christians in violation of God and Scripture (Hebrew 5:4, I Timothy 3).

10. Government demands that the Sacraments of the Church be submitted for approval by the government could ***never*** be honored. Can you imagine having to obtain a government permit to pray for the sick or ordain a minister? (James 5:14, Mark 6:13).

11. Government demands that religious festivals not be held could ***never*** be honored. To forbid Christians from keeping the Feast Days would violate Scripture (I Cor. 5:8, Acts 2, Acts 12:3, 20:16, I Cor. 16:8).

12: Government demands that deny Christians the right to own a Bible or that require that Bibles be burned could ***never*** be honored (I Tim. 3:16,17, Deut 29:29).

13. Government demands that couples submit to family planning could ***never*** be honored. Any government demand that prevents the birth of children would be a violation of Scripture (Psalms 127:3-5, 128:3, Genesis 1:28).

14. Goverment demands that deny parents the opportunity to home school their children could ***never*** be obeyed. This would deny parents a basic requirement under God and His Law (Deut. 6:7,8, Deut. 11:19, and Psalms 78:1-7).

15. Government demands that prevent the home birthing of children could ***never*** be honored. This would place Christians in violation of the Bible (Exodus 1:15-22, Genesis 35:17, 18).

16. Government demands that require mercy killing of elderly people or the handicapped could ***never*** be obeyed. This places Christians in violation of the sixth commandment. Thou shalt do no murder (Matthew 19:18).

17. Government demands that Christians obtain a government permit to have public worship could ***never*** be honored. This would place Christians in violation of the Bible (Leviticus 23:1-3, Heb. 10:25, Joel 2:15, 16).

18. Government demands that prohibit the preaching of Jesus Christ could ***never*** be obeyed. This places Christians in direct violation of Scripture and of a good conscience toward God (Acts 5:29, Titus 2:1, II Tim. 4:2).

19. Government demands that Christians submit to the eating of unclean foods could ***never*** be honored (Lev. 11, Deut. 14, Acts 10:14).

20. Government demands that force Christians to violate moral laws of the Bible could ***never*** be obeyed (See I Cor. 3:16,17, Rom. 12:1).

Here are twenty areas that Christians must never surrender to the office of the civil magistrate. There are others, but this will give sincere Christians a basic idea of those areas of life that are protected by God and Scripture. When you have reason to believe that you are going to be in violation of a government ordinance that will rob you of the above Scriptural inheritance, you should immediately begin to follow these steps in preparing your defense against the unscriptural commands of the civil magistrate.