

# When the Establishment is Wrong

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 4:13-31.

B. Peter boldly charged the Jewish people with the death of Jesus declaring that there is salvation in no one else.

## II. The high priests are a remarkable picture of human deception.

A. They think they are acting in reason, but they are acting contrary to it.

B. It became clear that anyone who had anything to do with Jesus began to act differently.

C. The priests admitted that the act of healing was a sign.

D. The inconsistency of the Jewish rulers led to an act of illegitimacy.

## III. There are times when it is right to disobey properly constituted authorities.

A. This civil disobedience is only valid if it contravenes a more important aspect of the Word of God.

B. Governments are given by God. (Romans 13)

C. The human conscience alone is not enough for civil disobedience therefore; a direct word from God is needed.

D. Conscience is given to prompt a man to choose right not to know right--conscience is not to be followed unless it is based upon the Word of God clearly.

## IV. The Apostles relied on prayer for power. They found encouragement in...

A. The sovereignty of God. God uses the very opposition to accomplish His plan.

B. The true strength of the church is in faith-prayer.

## V. To speak the Word of God with boldness shakes society.

A. Only the life of God will preserve the people in the land.

B. Jesus' resurrection brings new life to people and institutions to arouse them to right living.

C. The only hope of a nation is the proclamation of the gospel.

## **Application questions:**

1. How would you respond to a Christian who says that they have the right to disobey the government if a politician they disagree with is elected into office? Explain.

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2. Under what unique circumstances is disobedience allowed?

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3. How does an understanding of God's sovereignty help a believer obey under a tyrannical ruler?

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