

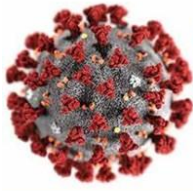
God is in Control!



*The Believer's Attitude toward
Unrighteous Government*

God's Providence ought to be our main Focus

- God is in control but is not the direct author of evil
- God works even our bad choices ought for good
- Due to the fall, sin has corrupted humanity and nature
- That is why there are viruses, natural or created by man
- The Church is uniquely prepared to handle this pandemic
- Our focus ought to be on seeing how God will use this time to advance His Kingdom among the nations
- This “divine pause” is a wake-up call to the nations



Novel Coronavirus, 2019-nCoV

is now officially called

COVID-19

CO - Corona
VI - Virus
D - Disease



A “Global Pause” An Unprecedented Time

- Affecting virtually 100% of the globe; *God has allowed it!*
- US - “stay home advisories/orders” - begin lifting by April 30?
 - Aren’t “emergency orders” / extended shut-downs crossing the line?
 - Aren’t churches essential services, so should we open anyway?
 - Are we heading toward total surveillance (anti-Christ control)?
 - Isn’t the idea of a required vaccine a one world government scheme?
 - Aren’t the numbers of cases and deaths bloated to produce fear?
 - Is the “stimulus” package the cure that’s worse than the disease?

Specific examples that cause Concern

- People arrested for being outside, holding birthday parties...
- Arrested / fined for holding drive-in services with distancing
- A parade of teachers/administrators broken up by cops
- Non-essential surgeries are putting other people at risk
- Businesses pad-locked; farmers selling off animals / produce
- Neighbors encouraged to report other neighbors to the police
- Pope says the virus is nature’s revenge for *climate change*
- A Governor declares U.S. flags and seeds as non-essential

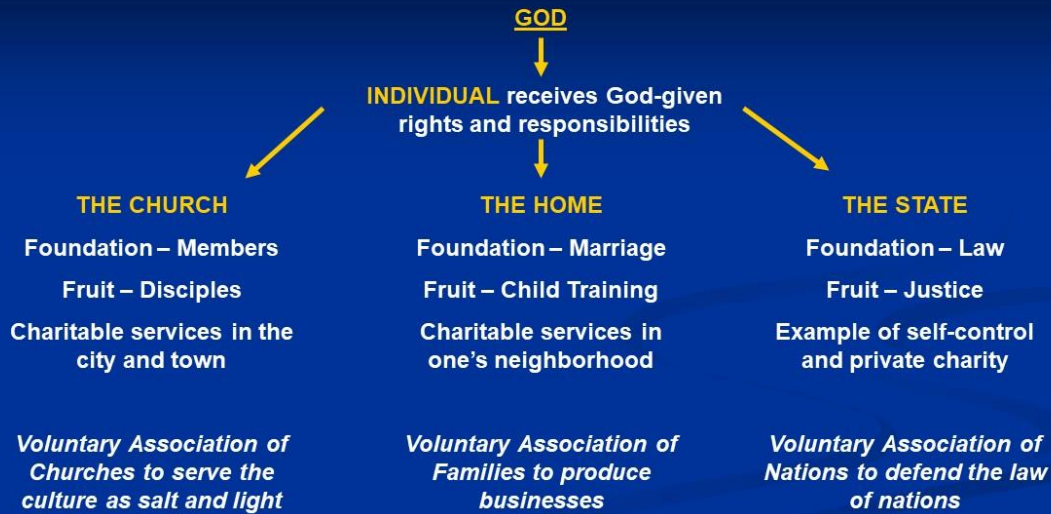
The Problem with “Stimulus” Welfare Bills

- Government bailouts increase the challenges for recovery
 - Welfare “relief” bills create digital money out of nothing...
 - This makes *all* our money worth less and increases inflation
- There is no Constitutional clause that warrants such action
 - The “general welfare” and “commerce” clauses are out of context
 - The National Government is *not* the solution to the problem
- Such action encourages dependency on government
- Businesses closed “through no fault of their own” does not warrant debt... release restrictions on local government

Examples of People bringing Rising Hope

- Voluntary supplies, service, rising from every are of the nation
- Hospitals now performing back-logged surgeries (empty beds)
- Popular resistance for government over-reach occurring...
 - Media exposure of Fauci’s “certificates of vaccination
 - Michigan Governor resisted; now wants *Hydroxychloroquine*
 - U.S. District Court Restraining Order on the ban on drive-in church
 - Gov. of Florida declares churches are “essential services”
- We need to pray that our society doesn’t turn to violence
- *How should Christians lead in responding based on the Bible?*

A Biblical Worldview of Jurisdictions



Constitutional Concerns

- **Emergency Orders – what are the parameters?**
 - “Narrowly tailored” – local, specific places where most needed
 - “Least restrictive” – *suggested* without force and temporary
- **Federalism – National and State Government relationship**
 - The States created the National Government by federal covenant
 - Though national emergencies are federal, States should lead
 - The *push* for a national lock-down or forced re-opening is wrong
- **The First Amendment – can only temporarily be suspended**
 - Freedom of Speech and Assembly are rights but not absolute
 - Religious liberty is a critical God-given right in America...

A Constitutional Way to Handle a Pandemic

- It's not the Government's job to solve the problem!
 - National Day of Prayer – Trump did so on March 15
 - State Governors should take the lead with County organization
 - Private sector charities and resources harnessed to tackle problem
- Declaration of Emergencies in localities highly infected
 - Isolation/quarantine temporarily with clear time limits
 - Respect for free speech and assembly – no banning businesses
- National government is to keep the disease from entering
 - Also should publicize data and how it is derived
 - Assist States where asked and help with data given...

The Biblical Doctrine of Resistance

James 4:6-7 - God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

- Direct rebellion against authority is wrong (Romans 13:2)
- Submission to God is the pre-requisite (Eph. 6:12; Mt. 5:43-44)
 - Are we submitting to God's lawful authorities at home and church?
 - *A respectful attitude of submission* incorporates loving one's enemy
- Lawful resistance avoids personal vengeance and preserves love as a motive even when justice is sought (Ro. 12:17-19)
 - This doctrine gave rise to the idea of *lower magistrate resistance*

John Calvin's Lower Magistrate Principle

"...Although the Lord takes vengeance on unbridled domination, let us not therefore suppose that that vengeance is committed to us, to whom no command has been given but to obey and suffer. I speak only of private men.

For when popular (lower) magistrates have been appointed to curb the tyranny of kings... so far am I from forbidding these officially to check the undue license of kings, that if they connive at kings when they tyrannize... the people... they fraudulently betray the liberty of the people, while knowing that, by the ordinance of God, they are its appointed guardians....

Interposition in the Old Testament

GOD'S RULE

1st Table of the
Law

Vertical

Relation to God

Priest

(Church)



2nd Table of the
Law

Horizontal

Relation to Man

King

(State)

O.T. Examples of Interposition

- 1st Samuel 13:8-12 – Samuel (Prophet) and Saul (King)
 - Saul (civil) gives sacrifice as a church – crossed jurisdictions
- 2nd Chr. 22-23; 2nd Kings 11 – Queen Athaliah
 - Athaliah seizes throne, kills off Ahaziah's sons (Joash hidden)
 - Jehoiada *interposes* with the military and crowns Joash
 - Athaliah is killed and a new covenant is made with God
- 2nd Chr. 26:16-23 – Priesthood and Uzziah
 - Uzziah (civil) tried to burn incense – Azariah *interposed*
 - God strikes Uzziah with leprosy... God approves of interposition

Interposition in the New Testament

Jurisdictions of Religious and Civil Liberty

Religious Liberty

(Romans 12:19-21)

1. 1st Table of the Law enforced by the Church
2. Freedom to Worship without compulsion
3. Christianity the only religion that allows freedom of expression from other opposing religions

Civil Liberty

(Romans 13:1-10)

1. 2nd Table of the Law enforced by the State
2. Freedom of conduct under moral law
3. Christianity the only religion that allows liberty under law through the consent of the governed

So is it ever lawful to disobey Civil Government?

- Civil Government is ordained by God – Romans 13; 1st Peter 2
 - Public officials are ministers of God – *to implement His Law*
 - They are to protect the conscience – *thus they are due honor*
- *When civil government demands us to disobey God's Law/Word – we must disobey it submissively (in attitude)*
- Examples of civil disobedience – targeting believers...
 - Hebrew Women – Exodus 1:15-22 – *Pharoah commanded the midwives to kill newborn sons; they refused creatively...*
 - The Early Church – Acts 5:22-29 – *the officers commanded them to not teach in Jesus' name...*

What are the Steps for Lawful Resistance

- Matthew 5:38-41 – personal offenses (build relationships)
- Matthew 18:15-18 - Appeal to authority for a resolution
- Matthew 10:14 - Boycott – economic resistance
- Acts 25:11 - Civil interposition – by lower magistrate, resistance must be *under authority*
- Matthew 10:23 - Flee – avoid greater conflict if possible
- Acts 5:29 - Disobey – commanded to disobey God's Word; could result in martyrdom
- Luke 22:36 - Forceful resistance – *under authority*

The Focus of the Believer in these Days

- The “birth-pangs” of His Kingdom – Isaiah 28:23-29
 - *Does God plow a field without a plan to plant seed for a harvest?*
 - *Historically, pandemics can precede Awakenings!*
 - Athens – 430 B.C. – first recorded one; then the Jews returned to Jerusalem
 - Roman Empire – *Cyprian* 250; *Justinian* 541 AD – the revivals in Britain
 - Black Death in England – 1350 AD – then Wycliffe and Great Reformation
 - Spanish Flu – 1918-1920 – *Billy Sunday’s crusade* in Jacksonville...
- Coronavirus Pandemic – 2020 – *what will God do?*
 - He will plow, sow, thresh (harvest) – the field is the world
 - *Our focus should be an expectation of a massive kingdom awakening*