

Separation of Church and State?

The State is responsible for establishing and maintaining good governance in its area of responsibility, by implementing and maintaining just laws to govern the people. Wicked people will demand separation of the Church from the State. They oppose the values of the Church, who offer opposition to unjust motions or proposals. This opposition directly affects the laws they wish to implement, retain, modify or abolish.

The righteous must be intolerant for wicked and evil practices

- (Deu 17:2) In one of the cities the LORD your God is giving you, there may be a man or woman among you who is doing what the LORD considers evil. This person may be disregarding the conditions of the LORD'S promise
- (Deu 17:3) by worshiping and bowing down to other gods, the sun, the moon, or the whole army of heaven. I have forbidden this.
- (Deu 17:4) When you are told about it, investigate it thoroughly. If it's true and it can be proven that this disgusting thing has been done in Israel,
- (Deu 17:5) then bring the man or woman who did this evil thing to the gates of your city, and stone that person to death.
- (Deu 17:6) The person can only be sentenced to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses, but no one should ever be sentenced to death on the testimony of only one witness.
- (Deu 17:7) The witnesses must start the execution, then all the other people will join them in putting the person to death. You must get rid of this evil.
- (Deu 17:8) There may be a case that is too hard for you to decide. It may involve murder, assault, or a dispute-any case which may be brought to court in your cities. Take this case to the place that the LORD your God will choose.
- (Deu 17:9) Go to the Levitical priests and the judge who is serving at that time. Ask for their opinion, and they will give you their verdict
- (Deu 17:10) at the place that the LORD will choose. Do what they tell you. Follow all their instructions carefully,
- (Deu 17:11) and do what they tell you to do in their verdict. Do exactly what they tell you to do in their decision.
- (Deu 17:12) If anyone deliberately disobeys the priest (who serves the LORD your God) or the judge, that person must die. You must get rid of this evil in Israel.
- (Deu 17:13) When all the people hear about it, they will be afraid and will never defy God's law again.

John the Baptist speaks out against the wicked ruler

- (Luk 3:18) With many other encouraging words, he told the Good News to the people.
- (Luk 3:19) John spoke out against the ruler Herod because Herod had married his own sister-in-law, Herodias. He also spoke out against Herod for all the evil things he had done.
- (Luk 3:20) So Herod added one more evil to all the others; he locked John in prison.

God's first commandment is that Man must acknowledge God's supreme authority over men

- (Exo 20:2 & Deu 5:6) "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of slavery in Egypt.
- (Exo 20:3 & Deu 5:7) "Never have any other god.
- (Exo 20:4 & Deu 5:8) Never make your own carved idols or statues that represent any creature in the sky, on the earth, or in the water.
- (Exo 20:5 & Deu 5:9) Never worship them or serve them, because I, the LORD your God, am a God who does not tolerate rivals. I punish children for their parents' sins to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.
- (Mat 22:35) One of them, an expert in Moses' Teachings, tested Jesus by asking,
- (Mat 22:36) "Teacher, which commandment is the greatest in Moses' Teachings?"
- (Mat 22:37) Jesus answered him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.
- (Mat 22:38) This is the greatest and most important commandment".

God is a fair Judge

- (Exo 20:6 & Deu 5:10) But I show mercy to thousands of generations of those who love me and obey my commandments.
- (Deu 10:17) The LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, powerful, and awe-inspiring God. He never plays favorites and never takes a bribe.
- (Deu 10:18) He makes sure orphans and widows receive justice. He loves foreigners and gives them food and clothes.

Jesus is a fair Teacher

- (Luk 20:21) They asked him, "Teacher, we know that you're right in what you say and teach. Besides, you don't play favorites. Rather, you teach the way of God truthfully.

God knew that the people would desire rulers, so He gave us rules for selecting a Governor or King.

- (Deu 17:14) You will enter the land that the LORD your God is giving you. You will take possession of it and live there. You will say, "Let's have our own king like all the other nations around us."
- (Deu 17:15) Be sure to appoint the king the LORD your God will choose. He must be one of your own people. Never let a foreigner be king, because he's not one of your own people.
- (Deu 17:16) The king must never own a large number of horses or make the people return to Egypt to get more horses. The LORD has told you, "You will never go back there again."
- (Deu 17:17) The king must never have a large number of wives, or he will turn away from God. And he must never own a lot of gold and silver.
- (Deu 17:18) When he becomes king, he should have the Levitical priests make him a copy of these teachings on a scroll.
- (Deu 17:19) He must keep it with him and read it his entire life. He will learn to fear the LORD his God and faithfully obey everything found in these teachings and laws.

(Deu 17:20) Then he won't think he's better than the rest of his people, and he won't disobey these commands in any way. So he and his sons will rule for a long time in Israel.

Summary of laws for selection of Ruler

- 1) The person chosen to rule, is God's final choice.
- 2) You may not put a foreigner over yourselves, who is not your countryman.
- 3) The Ruler must not keep a collection of horses.
- 4) The Ruler must not have multiple wives.
- 5) The Ruler must not amass wealth for himself.
- 6) He must have a personal copy of these laws for himself.
- 7) He must read this copy daily to remain humble towards his countrymen.

King Solomon broke many of these laws and his wealthy kingdom was soon destroyed.

God always gives fair warnings of the consequences for not obeying His laws.

The unrighteous cannot and should never govern the righteous.

King Saul became an unrighteous King on his first mission for God and he sought to kill David. Although David had many opportunities to kill Saul, David recognised that God had appointed Saul through Samuel and David honoured God, by not killing King Saul.

Samuel the Prophet judged the people

(1Sa 7:15) Samuel judged Israel as long as he lived.

(1Sa 7:16) Every year he went around to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah in order to judge Israel in all those places.

(1Sa 7:17) Then he would return home to Ramah. There, too, he judged Israel. And in Ramah he built an altar to the LORD.

Samuel the Prophet's son's were wicked, this prompted the people's request for a King

(1Sa 8:1) When Samuel was old, he made his sons judges over Israel.

(1Sa 8:2) The name of his firstborn son was Joel; the name of his second son was Abijah. They were judges in Beersheba.

(1Sa 8:3) The sons didn't follow their father's example but turned to dishonest ways of making money. They took bribes and denied people justice.

(1Sa 8:4) Then all the leaders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah.

(1Sa 8:5) They told him, "You're old, and your sons aren't following your example. Now appoint a king to judge us so that we will be like all the other nations."

Samuel realises this is wrong and speaks to God about it

(1Sa 8:6) But Samuel considered it wrong for them to request a king to judge them. So Samuel prayed to the LORD.

(1Sa 8:7) The LORD told Samuel, "Listen to everything the people are saying to you. They haven't rejected you; they've rejected me.

(1Sa 8:8) They're doing just what they've done since I took them out of Egypt-leaving me and serving other gods.

(1Sa 8:9) Listen to them now, but be sure to warn them and tell them about the rights of a king."

(1Sa 8:10) Then Samuel told the people who had asked him for a king everything the LORD had said.

Samuel warns the people of the consequences of electing a King and the debt they will incur. It's interesting to see that the King will now receive a tithe too, taxes?

- (1Sa 8:11) Samuel said, "These are the rights of a king: He will draft your sons, make them serve on his chariots and horses, and make them run ahead of his chariots.
- (1Sa 8:12) He will appoint them to be his officers over 1,000 or over 50 soldiers, to plow his ground and harvest his crops, and to make weapons and equipment for his chariots.
- (1Sa 8:13) He will take your daughters and have them make perfumes, cook, and bake.
- (1Sa 8:14) He will take the best of your fields, vineyards, and olive orchards and give them to his officials.
- (1Sa 8:15) He will take a tenth of your grain and wine and give it to his aids and officials.
- (1Sa 8:16) He will take your male and female slaves, your best cattle, and your donkeys for his own use.
- (1Sa 8:17) He will take a tenth of your flocks. In addition, you will be his servants.
- (1Sa 8:18) "When that day comes, you will cry out because of the king whom you have chosen for yourselves. The LORD will not answer you when that day comes."
- (1Sa 8:19) But the people refused to listen to Samuel. They said, "No, we want a king!
- (1Sa 8:20) Then we, too, will be like all the other nations. Our king will judge us, lead us out to war, and fight our battles."
- (1Sa 8:21) When Samuel heard everything the people had to say, he reported it privately to the LORD.
- (1Sa 8:22) The LORD told him, "Listen to them, and give them a king."
Then Samuel told the people of Israel, "Go back to your own cities."

Jesus taught that humility is important and told men to acknowledge God as the supreme authority

- (Mat 10:24) "A student is not better than his teacher. Nor is a slave better than his owner.
- (Mat 23:8) But don't make others call you Rabbi, because you have only one teacher, and you are all followers.
- (Mat 23:9) And don't call anyone on earth your father, because you have only one Father, and He is in heaven.
- (Mat 23:10) Don't make others call you a leader, because you have only one leader, the Messiah.
- (Mat 23:11) The person who is greatest among you will be your servant.
- (Mat 23:12) Whoever honours himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be honoured.
- (Luk 20:21) They asked him, "Teacher, we know that you're right in what you say and teach. Besides, you don't play favorites. Rather, you teach the way of God truthfully.
- (Luk 20:22) Is it right for us to pay taxes to the emperor or not?"
- (Luk 20:23) He saw through their scheme, so he said to them,

- (Luk 20:24) "Show me a coin. Whose face and name is this?" They answered, "The emperor's."
- (Luk 20:25) He said to them, "Well, then give the emperor what belongs to the emperor, and give God what belongs to God."
- (Luk 20:26) They couldn't make him say anything wrong in front of the people. His answer surprised them, so they said no more.
- (Joh 7:16) Jesus responded to them, "What I teach doesn't come from me but from the one who sent me.
- (Joh 7:17) Those who want to follow the will of God will know if what I teach is from God or if I teach my own thoughts.
- (Joh 7:18) Those who speak their own thoughts are looking for their own glory. But the man who wants to bring glory to the one who sent him is a true teacher and doesn't have dishonest motives.
- (Joh 13:12) After Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer clothes, he took his place at the table again. Then he asked his disciples, "Do you understand what I've done for you?"
- (Joh 13:13) You call me teacher and Lord, and you're right because that's what I am.
- (Joh 13:14) So if I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you must wash each other's feet.
- (Joh 13:15) I've given you an example that you should follow.
- (Joh 13:16) I can guarantee this truth: Slaves are not superior to their owners, and messengers are not superior to the people who send them.
- (Joh 13:17) If you understand all of this, you are blessed whenever you follow my example.
- (Jam 4:10) Humble yourselves in the Lord's presence. Then he will give you a high position.
- (Jam 4:11) Brothers and sisters, stop slandering each other. Those who slander and judge other believers slander and judge God's teachings. If you judge God's teachings, you are no longer following them. Instead, you are judging them.
- (Jam 4:12) There is only one teacher and judge. He is able to save or destroy you. So who are you to judge your neighbour?
- (Mat 18:1) At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"
- (Mat 18:2) He called a little child and had him stand among them.
- (Mat 18:3) Then he said to them, "I can guarantee this truth: Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
- (Mat 18:4) Whoever becomes like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
- (Luk 22:25) Jesus said to them, "The kings of nations have power over their people, and those in authority call themselves friends of the people.
- (Luk 22:26) But you're not going to be that way! Rather, the greatest among you must be like the youngest, and your leader must be like a servant.

- (Luk 22:27) Who's the greatest, the person who sits at the table or the servant? Isn't it really the person who sits at the table? But I'm among you as a servant.
- (Mat 11:11) "I can guarantee this truth: Of all the people ever born, no one is greater than John the Baptizer. Yet, the least important person in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John.
- (Mat 17:10) So the disciples asked him, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"
- (Mat 17:11) Jesus answered, "Elijah is coming and will put everything in order again.
- (Mat 17:12) Actually, I can guarantee that Elijah has already come. Yet, people treated him as they pleased because they didn't recognize him. In the same way they're going to make the Son of Man suffer."
- (Mat 17:13) Then the disciples understood that he was talking about John the Baptizer.

John the Baptist recommends charity, honesty and contentment with pay

- (Luk 3:10) The crowds asked him, "What should we do?"
- (Luk 3:11) He answered them, "Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who doesn't have any. Whoever has food should share it too."
- (Luk 3:12) Some tax collectors came to be baptized. They asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?"
- (Luk 3:13) He told them, "Don't collect more money than you are ordered to collect."
- (Luk 3:14) Some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He told them, "Be satisfied with your pay, and never use threats or blackmail to get money from anyone."

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