

The Ministers we love to hate

Americans are blessed to live in a country of laws and rules that govern our lives. Most of us have a respect for the judicial system and see the relevance and value of the process. The problem is that somewhere in the deep recesses of our minds is the hidden love of “*robin hood*”, the robber with a good cause and reason for his crime. We find ourselves rooting for the bad guy in the movies and shout “shut up” at the TV as some villain is about to confess to a crime or fall unsuspecting into a trap set by the police on some reality cop show. Many people won’t say it out loud but some of the most professed Christians harbor a hatred for the police. We teach the love of Christ and respect for rules in church and then go home and spend the rest of the night decrying a force that we will call the moment something sounds suspicious. We want them to go where we won’t go and do what we can’t do and then hate them as if they are an unnecessary part of our peace. **Romans 13:1 says “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the POWERS THAT BE are ordained of God.”** This simply proves that God is in control. When we despise the Police or judges then we are in direct opposition to God who sanctioned their existence and justifies their purpose. We are not to obey the police and the laws of the land grudgingly or with reservation but with zeal because we operate under dual citizenship and have an obligation to be a beacon of light and righteousness in both. Believers are both citizens of Earth and the Kingdom of God. Because our Lord is Master of Heaven and Earth then His rule is applicable in both realms. We do not get to act like saints in church and speak like angels about the ordained church leaders and not understand that the same divine thought and planning that God uses to take a man from obscurity and make him a great Apostle is the exact same care that He uses when creating a Police Chief or a Supreme Court Judge. Both groups are ordained to set order and to establish a doctrine of peace and prosperity. In the church we constantly remind people that it would be ludicrous and unfair to negatively label all preachers because of something one preacher did to them or somebody else. It seems just as short sighted and limiting to see police brutality and forget that those men don’t represent all officers. We don’t want to be judged by the actions of our family or co workers yet we do this with people who are extremely valuable to our society. Whose side are we really on? **Titus 3:1 says, “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey MAGISTRATES, to be ready to every good work...”** Our subjection is not just obeying the law. Our subjection is in our hearts and minds as it would be to any Pastor or Church leader. We know how to look obedient while rebelling inside. We give lip service but are never fully in agreement with the authority and run down their directives to others whenever there is a chance. We may never speak out against the authority but openly agree with those that do. My friends, this is not subjection but hypocrisy. As believers we have to pick a team. The World says don’t cooperate with the cops. The bad guy is the most coveted role in Hollywood and the rebel is the guy all the girls want. We already have a notion in our society that the good die young and if they don’t they finish last. Everybody wants to end the killing and senseless violence but nobody wants to get involved. Everybody sees everything but nobody wants to help change anything because they see the authorities as enemies and not solutions.

Do you know what our ride to work would be like if we had no standard light or sign system that directed or movements? What if we had no lines in the street to prohibit our cars from crossing over? If it were not for the crossing guards many people would never even slow or stop for their own children walking to school. We need laws because they act as a guide for a fallen people who, if left to ourselves, would care only about ourselves. The police officers, judges, prosecutors and corrections officers are not just men and women with badges but they are ministers of God with a mandate for our peace and protection. Their legalized execution of judgment is given by God for the good of His people. For those that have no fear of doing evil God has raised up a corps of people who will be his revenger and his arm of both wrath and peace for those who choose their lot. **Romans 13:4 says “For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the SWORD IN VAIN: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.”**