

The 5th Commandment and Civil Authorities

The Purpose and Means of Civil Government

Q: What is the **purpose** of civil government?

A1: The civil government is God's _____ of justice (Rom 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17)

Q: How does civil government minister God's justice?

A1: The civil government wisely _____ God's standard of justice (Rom 13:1-7)

A2: The civil government _____ transgressions with the _____

A3: It justly bears the sword to _____ the life and property of its citizens

- God is a _____ (2 Kings 19:20-37; Psalm 43:1-2; 72:1-4)
 - The example of _____ (Deut 28:7, 25-26; Judg 2:11-15; Esther 8:11; 9:16)
 - In the New Testament, we expect soldiers to continue in their _____ (Luke 3:14; Matt 8 / Mark 15 / Luke 7; Acts 10)
 - The gospel promised a _____ - _____ (Isa 19:19-22)
 - The civil states should defend the _____
 - The character of God (Psalm 72; 41:1-3; Amos 4:1-4)
 - God invited his people to join him in defending the weak (Psalm 82:1-4; Lev 19:15-16; Prov 24:10-12; Isa 1:16-17; 58:5-10)
 - The New Testament teaches an individual ethic of helping the weak and poor (Luke 10:25-37; Acts 4:34-37; 2 Cor 8-9; Gal 2:10)
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How then does the civil state defend? What are the merits and weaknesses of different means of defense?

- The civil states should protect _____ and _____

How might the civil state protect life? To what degree should the state engage in protecting life in the case of...

- Unborn children (i.e. abortion)
- Potential murder
- Suicide
- Health and safety (e.g. alcohol, tobacco, drugs, processed food)
- Care for the sick and injured
- Medical emergency / terminal illness
- End of life / euthanasia
- From animals
- From environmental dangers?

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- What about human rights or liberties?
 - Scripture tells the story of _____ from slavery & oppression
 - Freedom of _____ is valued
 - Basic human liberties grant citizens the freedom to steward their lives for the best public good

What rights should the civil government defend? What rights are recognized in the US?

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- Freedom of _____, _____, _____, _____, _____ the government (_____ Amendment)
 - Freedom to _____ (_____ Amendment)
 - Freedom from unreasonable _____ and _____

What are the challenges in balancing incremental increases in civil regulation versus protecting human liberty?
