

The 5th Commandment and Civil Authorities

The Purpose 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)

- Governing authorities are God's deacon (Rom 13:4, 6)
 - God is sovereign (Creator, Sustainer, Governor)
 - The first family: Adam and Eve

Q: What do governing authorities exist to do?

(1) Administer _____

(2) _____ the weak (Ps 92; Dan 4:27)

(3) _____ the criminal (1 Thess 4:1-8; Eccl. 8:10-13)

(4) _____ civic good (1 Sam 8:10-18; 12:1-5; Deut 16:18-20; Ps 26:9; 15:27; 17:23; Isa 33:15-16; Ezek 22:6-13; Amos 5:12; Hab 1:1)

(5) _____ taxes

What are some biblical principles of justice?

Who are "the weak" in our society?

What are ways government punishes unduly?

What are ways that government is soft on criminals?

What are examples of Christians undermining God's means of administering his wrath through civil authorities?

What are examples of the "common civic good"?

What are ways government could approve the "common good"?

How Civil Government Deacons Justice

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

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

• By what _____ ?

1. Standard option #1: God

• Recall what we know about God (Rom 13:1-5; Mal 3:5-7; Ps 111:7; Deut 32:4):

• God is _____ to as the authority of justice (Ex 18:15-16; Deut 17:8ff)

2. Standard option #2: Mankind

- What happens when mankind tries to be the source of the standard (Genesis 3)?

• Sources of God's revealed Law

1. _____ revelation: Natural Law

2. _____ revelation: Scripture

God provides the standard of what is the civil good. What are the blessings of this?

What are other problems with mankind being the source of laws? What is the standard of good and bad in Romans 13?

Where does respect for human life originate? What kinds of laws should be on the books?

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

A2: The civil government _____ transgressions with the _____

- Civil instrument of authority: The sword

- Biblical motives for punishment:

1. _____ (Deut 13:11)

2. _____ (1 Cor 5:51-5; Prov 22:15)

3. _____ (Exod 21-22)

4. _____ ()

5. _____ ()

6. _____ (Exod 21:23-25)

Are you tempted to overlook any of these motives? What happens when there is an imbalance between these motives?

- Distinguish _____ from _____ (Matt 5:21-30; Acts 4:18-20)

- Is _____ biblically ethical?

- Principles of _____ (Exod 21:18-22:15; Lev 6:1-7; Lk 19; Eph 4:28)
 - One biblical solution: _____ servitude (Exod 22:1-3)

 - Benefits of restitution:

 - Ultimately, every criminals needs restitution with _____

Where are people tempted to *criminalize* all sin and overdo punishment?

Are you persuaded the imprisonment is not the most ethical approach to civil punishment? Either way, how might we go about making prison reform of our current system in America, with all of its problems?

Can you think of how punishment as restitution would reform our current judicial system?

Brainstorm different types of punishment

 Are you for or against capital punishment?

- The sixth commandment — *Exodus 20:13* “*You shall not murder.*”
 - To murder _____ to kill

- The Mosaic Law warrants capital punishment in the case of...
 - (1) _____ (Lev 24:17-18; Num 35:16-21; 35:30-34; Deut 17:6-7)\
 - (2) _____ (Lev 20:10-16; Deut 22:21-24)
 - (3) _____ (Lev 20:11-14)
 - (4) _____ (Exod 22:19; Lev 20:15-16)
 - (5) _____ (Lev 18:22; 20:13)
 - (6) _____ (Deut 22:25-27)
 - (7) _____ in capital crimes (Deut 19:15-21)
 - (8) _____ (Exod 21:16; Deut 24:7)
 - (9) _____ by a priest’s daughter (Lev 21:9)
 - (10) _____ (Exod 22:1)
 - (11) Human _____ (Lev 20:1-5)
 - (12) _____ or cursing father or mother (Exod 21:15-17; Lev 20:6-9)
 - (13) _____ delinquents (Deut 21:18-21)
 - (14) _____ (Lev 24:11-14, 16, 23)
 - (15) Sabbath _____ (Exod 31:12-17; Num 15:32-36)
 - (16) False _____ (Deut 13:1-10)
 - (17) Sacrificing to _____ gods (Exod 22:20)
 - (18) _____ for the priest or judge (Deut 17:12)

- Death penalty is a _____ punishment because it upholds the _____ of image-bearers (Gen 9:5-6)

- The New Testament recognizes murder and capital punishment for murder (Rom 13:9-10; James 2:10-11; Rom 1:29; 1 Tim 1:9-11; James 4:1-2; 1 John 3:13, 15; Rev 9:20-21; 16:4-6; 18:21-24; 22:14-15; Matt 5:21-26; 15:19; 19:16-18; Acts 25:10-11)

- Capital punishment is administered by the _____ government, not by _____ (Rom chs. 12 vs. 13; 1 Pet 2:13-14)

Which crimes are punishable by capital punishment?

- Capital punishment is warranted for _____
- Others?
- Crimes that should not be punished by death penalty : _____ crimes

What objections are raised against capital punishment?
