

“DEALING WITH THE ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM”

Matthew 22:17-21

Throughout this country, Americans recognize Independence Day by celebrating the freedoms we enjoy in this “*land of liberty*.” Despite the declaration of dependence on God by our founding fathers, many trends in this nation seem to contradict the “*laws of Nature and Nature’s God*.” Today, we turn our attention to three God-honoring responses to government in times of turmoil.

1. Participate in the government

“Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, ‘You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.’ They brought Him a denarius, and He asked them, ‘Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?’ ‘Caesar’s,’ they replied. Then He said to them, ‘Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.’” Matthew 22:17-21

“This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.” Romans 13:6,7

www.seeksocialjustice.com

2. Promote God-honoring government

“Endow the king with Your justice, O God, the royal son with Your righteousness. He will judge Your people in righteousness, Your afflicted ones with justice.” Psalm 72:1,2

George Washington: The great pillars of human happiness? Morality & religion

cf. Deuteronomy 28

- Be informed

www.IVoteValues.org

www.frc.org

- Be involved

www.SpeakUpMovement.org

“When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.” Proverbs 29:2

3. Pray for the government

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” 1 Timothy 2:1-4

www.Call2Fall.com
www.ifapray.org

CONCLUSION

- What is the source of real freedom?
- True freedom is not the right to do what I want but the power to do what I should

PRIMARY RESOURCES USED FOR THIS SERMON INCLUDE

“How You Can Have Maximum Impact as a Christian Citizen” by Kenyn Cureton
Personal Faith Public Policy by Harry Jackson and Tony Perkins
Culture Making by Andy Crouch