



Collusion or Collision—Part 2
Obeying God vs. Caesar
From Sermon 4.18.21

Read *Mark 12:14-17*

Review from Sunday's sermon: It is God who establishes authority. Because of man's sin nature, God instituted various restraints and ordained consequences for sin. Part of the coming collision in each person's future will be a choice between rebelling against God's authority or that of the government. This is a complex, yet important line to walk and consequences to consider.

Foundational Exercise: Reviewing Spheres of Authority

<u>Sphere</u>	<u>Scripture(s)</u>	<u>Structure</u>
<u>Home</u>	<i>Ephesians 5:22-24 & 6:1-3</i>	<u>Husbands are to lead the home. Children to obey</u>
<u>World</u>	<i>Romans 13:1-7</i>	<u>Kings, leaders, law & authority followed and respected</u>
<u>Church</u>	<i>Hebrews 13:7 & 17, 1 Timothy 5:17-19, & 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13</i>	<u>Elders are to lead the Church. Members are to obey and respect</u>
<u>Workplace</u>	<i>Ephesians 6:5-8</i>	<u>Owners, bosses, managers are to be obeyed and respected</u>

1. The world has made authority the enemy. Why does man rebel against each authority? His sin nature. He follows his father, the devil, who was the first and ultimate rebel against authority. Man also wants to be/be like God.

2. The problem is not the design, but the failure of the 1) human authority and 2) those subject to him. Discuss. Because leaders of every sphere are fallen, sinful human agents, they abuse power, gain power through selfish means, and serve self. All followers are fallen and sinful and naturally rebel.

3. What is our obligation to civil (any) authority? We are to respect, obey, and pray for them.

3a. What if I view them as corrupt or inept? I'm still obligated to obey and respect.

3b. What if they are not of my political party or if I disagree with a law or policy? All those are irrelevant to obedience and submission to God-ordained authority. See *Matthew 23:3*

4. On Sunday, it was stated: The problem also lies in one sphere invading or colluding with another. Give some historic examples. The collusion of the Church and State in the Dark Ages. Many modern examples

5. What are some of the "sphere invasions" of our day? The Government dictating and defining home/family = overriding parental authority. Government dictating church meetings and conduct.

6. When does the Christian have the permission/obligation to defy civil authority [or any authority]? When it clearly violates the Law, Nature, or Commands of God. See also *Acts 4:18-20 & 5:27-29*

7. Back to Collusion or Collision. What are/will be the consequences of our church following civil rulings when they defy the commands of God in Scripture? On the other hand, what are/will be the consequences of our church following the commands of God in Scripture even when they defy the rulings of the civil authority? See also *Matthew 10:16-22* Various personal observations and conclusions.