

IS IT RIGHT TO STAND UP FOR OUR FREEDOMS & RIGHTS?



OPINION PIECE

16th May 2020

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It was Dr Martin Luther King Jr who said: “One has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws.”

It's been surprising the number of Christians that have thrown up Romans 13:1 in criticizing Destiny Church's 'Stand for our Freedoms and Rights' service this Sunday at our church premises. Interesting that many of the unbelieving crowd of haters have also joined the religious blind in quoting that same Romans 13:1 passage of scripture, a scary alliance in my opinion.

So do the church or believers have such a freedom or role in confronting the State or Government of its day? Or as some are saying, it's none of our business, trust God and keep praying?

In Acts 4:25-35 there is plenty of evidence that the Church and gifted leaders will not only confront political powers, but also religious powers and the power of people who oppose them! Further to this, in Acts 4:17-20 it says by this time now the Roman political senate and the religious authorities had colluded together to threaten, what they called a cult (how ironic) named 'The Way.' This was before the heathen renamed them 'Christians', and they were charged by law not to preach that name of Jesus Christ anymore!

Now it's clear in the above passage, The Apostle Peter answered by saying “Whether it be right in the sight of God to listen to you more than God...you be the judge! But we cannot help but to speak what God wants us to speak” (Acts 4:19-20)

Now it's easy to weigh up the argument about the separation of Church and State! Firstly, when the state is oppressing the people's freedoms and rights to speak and express themselves about what they believe and feel...it's a breach. They tried to muzzle the Apostles, to threaten them with fines, regulations and jail (to which later they did jail Peter). But the Church never backed down or stopped spreading The Kingdom of God to the public in the face of political and religious threat.

Secondly, there is always leadership. Many misguided Christians belly on about a nebulous group of faceless, nameless people called Christians standing together. Well, there has to be leadership and it's usually in the form of an Apostle (a sent one from God), who has God's mandate to lead many. They have God's revelation (plans, strategies and God's endorsement). The Church for too long has been divided, muted and guilty of not informing or teaching Christians their role in being Salt and Light in all spheres of society and bringing The Kingdom of God to a desperate and needy world.

Yes, respect the law and those that are chosen to administer it but never should a Government be allowed to get away with unjust laws, actions or behaviour and neither should they ever be allowed to set up oppressive, ungodly or tyrannical regimes over the people.

In closing, ponder this. Under a tyrannical regime, “the people who hid Anne Frank were breaking the law. The people who killed her were following it!” Who do you think was in the right?