

Christian Religion/Public Policy/Political Economy

## "Should Christians Obey Government?"

Is it a sin for you to drive 69 mph in a zone with a posted maximum of 65 mph? Was Christ nailed to the cross for your "sin" of hiring a gardener or a maid who did not have a legitimate "green card" from the immigration authorities? Public policies often entail annoying, costly, and even offensive impositions for Christians. Some policy has been deadly. Indeed, civil government has been more lethal than any infectious disease, plague, or religious inquisition in history. As Samuel prophesied, the onslaught of government power in Old Testament Israel brought conscription, involuntary servitude, confiscation of property, and taxes. When we compare those public policies with our current experience, has modern civil government really changed fundamentally?

Inside, you will discover:

- Which public policies must be obeyed and which must be disobeyed.
- When, if ever, Christians should revolt or not pay taxes.
- To what extent a Christian must or should submit to the state.
- How national pride subtly mixes with Christian practice.
- How public policies ranging from speed limits to food stamps and Social Security to public schools should be evaluated.

"Government is not reason, it is not eloquence. It is force. Like fire it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master." —**George Washington** (attributed)

"The State simply exists to promote and to protect the ordinary happiness of human beings in this life." —**C.S. Lewis**

"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities." —**The Apostle Paul**

"I hold it, that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical." —**Thomas Jefferson**

Dr. John Cobin (Ph.D. Public Policy, George Mason University) is an Investment Adviser and Visiting Professor of Economics and Public Policy. He has written many articles and books, including *A Primer on Modern Themes in Free Market Economics and Policy* (Universal Publishers 2000 and Alertness Books 2003), its Spanish translation *Ensayos Sobre Temas Modernos en la Economía y las Políticas de Mercado* (Alertness Books 2003), *Building Regulation, Market Alternatives, and Allodial Policy* (Avebury Press 1997, iUniverse.com 2001, and Alertness Books 2003) and *Pro-Life Policy: A Perspective for Liberty and Human Rights* (Gemini Books 1999 and Alertness Books 2003). He is a devout Evangelical Christian, the father of six homeschooled children, a fervent traveler (in America and to thirty other nations—including living abroad), and an international lecturer. He holds masters degrees in business economics (UC Santa Barbara) and economics (George Mason University) and is a graduate of Reformed Bible College.

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