

## **Are Christians called to stand against Tyranny?**

What is tyranny and why is it so relevant to Christians?

Tyranny can be defined as "oppressive government or rule". Even more simply, it's any government or person that rules according to man-made laws. Man-made laws always leads to abusive, ungodly power which restricts freedom and causes nations and people to put man (or the state) in the place of God.

Where tyranny exists, freedom is always eventually quenched. The freedom's that come from God's law become negated when tyrannical rulers govern a nation. Very simply, "BIG government" and God's law are polar opposites and cannot coexist without one nullifying the other.

America was founded as a "Republic" which is based on limited law and minimal government, leaving room for maximum freedom for the individual.

Since our founders were biblical in their worldview, the constitution not only reflects a biblical structure of government but also presupposes God's law as the standard for right and wrong.

You may be asking, "This sure doesn't seem like our present situation in America, what happened to our country?"

Well, for one, our government has become arbitrary in their lawmaking and relative in their standard of right and wrong. They make policy and laws according to man's political ideals and agendas rather than the standard of God's laws. There was a time when the bible was the standard for lawmaking in our nation.

Needless to say, at this point in time, considering God's law or seeking to follow biblical standards for right and wrong, is an outright ludicrous concept to our government.

In essence, our government has put itself in the place of "law maker", i.e., God, arbitrarily defining truth, making laws and oppressively ruling over the people based on their own (humanistic) standards.

This is a complete violation of scripture (in many aspects, too many to list here.) All institutions and forms of government are accountable to the laws of scripture. This doesn't mean the church and government are to rule in each other's spheres. That would be unbiblical. It does mean that all spheres must have God and His Word as the ultimate standard of truth. There's no middle ground. It's either God's way or man's way.

As Christians, in the face of this defiance against God, what are we to do?

In other words, are we called to stand against tyranny? And if so, "How?"

Well, that all depends on your view of the gospel and the Kingship of Jesus Christ.

Here are a few questions to ponder:

- Does the gospel extend further than just an individual's religious experience, or saving someone from hell?
- Does Jesus want us to get involved in transforming the culture?

Or better yet...(a few more qualifying questions:)

- Is Jesus King over all?
- Does He want His will done on "earth" as it is in heaven?
- To what extent is His Kingship (His gospel) the power of God?
- Has He commissioned His Church to be "His hands and feet" on earth?
- Is the church to be a prophetic voice against "all" types of sin?
- Can the gospel redeem as far as sin corrupts?
- Has He commanded us to disciple "nations?"
- Has He established the nations and the civil government?
- Does He actively rule over the nations or just Christians?
- Has He risen and already begun renewing the world and bringing forth the new creation, (ie, the Kingdom of God,) through His Church by the preaching and living out of the gospel?

...and the list goes on.

If you answered "no" to any of the questions above, then to say the least, we probably differ theologically, in many ways. Too many to discuss here.

However, if you answered "yes" to any of the questions above, we're probably on the same page. More than that, we probably agree on this next statement:

*Christians need to speak up and start doing something about tyrannical government!*

Great, so now what?

The next question: where should we begin?

Short answer: Begin where you are by taking every thought captive to Christ, in every area of life - personal life, church, family, civil government, business, education, media, etc, etc., etc. EVERYWHERE-ALL TO HIS GLORY.

Here's a longer answer for "where should we begin?"

- We need leaders to rise in churches and families to publicly stand against ungodliness and the celebration of evil.
- We need evangelists to make kingdom disciples with the intent of bringing Christ into every area of life and society.
- We must reprove and resist evil with the Word in every way, shape and form beginning in the home and in our personal lives.
- We need selfless, sacrificial, disciplined parents! We need parents to teach their children a biblical worldview & equip them to be future leaders and world changers for Christ.
- We need godly men to rise up to leadership positions within all aspects of society: education, civil government, law enforcement, media and business.
- We need brave, courageous Pastors! To preach, lead boldly and speak truth from the pulpit, exhorting from the whole of scripture, even when it hurts.

That's the longer answer, but not the full answer. It is a start. All in all, it's high time and Christians must hear scripture screaming out at them to get involved!

As we begin to do these things, God will move, hearts will be regenerated and more and more Christians will be active in transforming all aspects of society and ultimately the world.

As someone once said, "the face of the government is a reflection of the heart of the people." It can also be said that the "face of society is a reflection of the church" (or the Christians in that society). We must "do something" or our society and nation will be lost, given fully over to idolatry and mockery of God.

So, what about street preachers?

When a nation's laws, rulers and use of power becomes ungodly, it's especially time for street preachers to do what they do best- PREACH!

In my opinion, there's never been a better time for street preachers to be used by God than right now, at this point in history. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, we see God use public preachers in desperate times, by sending them to city gates, hillsides, pagan temples, court rooms, street corners and throughout the market places, to proclaim God as King and to call people, nations and leaders to His rule. I believe now more than ever street preachers are needed in this country.

Yes, people everywhere always need Christ, however, as I alluded to before, getting saved from hell and an individual's religious experience, is not the only purpose of the gospel. The gospel is also the announcement of the crucified and risen Jesus Christ being proclaimed and crowned as King. The gospel message is a summons to all hearers to submit to the rule of the King.

(This is what most New Testament street preaching is all about- the announcement of the kingdom of God- that God's Son has become King & His rule starts now. He's

won the victory, just like He said He would throughout the whole Old Testament. Jesus' global Kingship means everything is in submission to Him. All authority is His. He is conquering here and now, through the gospel, through His people, in every area of life, until all His enemies are defeated and the kingdom's comes in its ultimate fulfillment. Looking at the gospel in this light clearly exposes the need to stand against tyranny or anyone who puts themselves in the place of God when ruling or governing any of God's institutions.)

This Kingship of Christ is the authority that the street preacher stands on. Without Christ's active Kingship, the street preacher cannot announce any good news at all.

We're not spies in a foreign land hoping not to be discovered. We're soldiers in our homeland proclaiming to the residents that King Jesus is ruler, not Caesar, aka, tyrannical government or its agenda.

We must therefore strategically step out and face the enemies of God's society, where the battle is raging, with the transforming power of the of the gospel.

Where is the battle raging? Well, many places. However, I believe the common denominator in many of these "places" is tyrannical, ungodly government-on all levels (local, state and national.)

Of course there are principalities, powers and spiritual forces behind much of the evil we face today in our nation. But also at the root are the decisions of tyrannical rulers. Abortion, homosexual marriage, over taxation, fiscal dishonesty, national debt, exaltation of pagan ideology, squashing freedom of speech, the removal of parental rights and many more issues are happening as a result of unbiblical decisions and lawmaking by a tyrannical government.

Very simply, when a government establishes laws that contradict and negate God's laws, they are in fact putting themselves (the state) in the place of God. It's even worse when they convince the people that their actions are right and moral when in fact they are wrong and abominable (according to God.)

With all that said, street preachers must rise, stand and announce to our nation and its leaders that Jesus is the true King, calling them to turn to Him and to submit to the gospel with repentance and faith.

This is what Operation Freedom is all about.

Operation Freedom's first purpose is to recruit likeminded street preachers with a united purpose: to stand up and speak out against tyrannical, ungodly government, with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The motive is not nationalism or patriotism, although it does require a love of country.

We're not trying to make a better society through social reform, although a desire to see the culture transformed for Christ is present.

The ultimate goal is to simply be obedient, glorifying God as King through the proclamation of the gospel, in every sphere of life and society. Our ultimate joy is to see people triumphantly recognize and follow Christ as King in our nation and beyond. To see them receive the love, hope, forgiveness and eternal life that He offers all who hear His call and believe His gospel.

Are you called to stand against tyranny? Better yet, "Are you a Christian?" If so, then the answer is "*Yes!*" *you are called to stand against tyranny.* The next question is "how." That, God will show you. Ask the Lord but know for sure He wants you to take action. Pray, promote righteousness (beginning at home), support godly government officials, speak out, or even protest against some of the target issues in your nearby city-but begin now to do something.

Of course, you can also get involved in Operation Freedom, even if you're not a street preacher. We'll have many opportunities for you to get involved, especially in Phase II when we release this to churches and Christians nationwide.

In the meantime, to learn more, go to [gostandspeak.com](http://gostandspeak.com), and also feel free to also join us for a live call this Thursday at 12 noon eastern time.

For Jesus & His Kingdom.

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