

ROMANS 13:1-14

Matt. 17:27; Mark 12:13-17; Titus 3:1,2; 1 Peter 2:11-17

INTRODUCTION

This lesson tonight will deal with, in some measure at least, THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS GOVERNMENT. In this day especially, there are many ideas as to the role of the individual Christian and even the church as a corporate body in local and world politics. This is not a discussion as to whether or not an individual Christian can hold public office, for I find no Biblical teaching that would deny such to the individual Christian. I would however point out the possibility of great danger that is usually present when we set out to please a politically polyglot population. There are some things the church as a body is not called upon to do. Consider some of them:

1. The Church has no spiritual mandate to sponsor economic, social, and political programs.
2. The New Testament does not authorize the New Testament church to endorse specific legislative proposals as part of its mission in the world
3. The New Testament church has no divine authority to become officially involved in the approval or disapproval of economic programs and political strategies.
4. It is not the business of the New Testament church to inform the federal government about matters of national defense and international policy.

There are some things the church should consider. Suggestions:

1. We have, along with all protestants, demanded the "separation of church and state" and rightly so. In face of this, why should any preacher, any church, expect to slip in the back door of the political world and slap its duly constituted authorities in the face while at the same time we expect them to respect us when we slam our doors in their faces?

SOME THINGS THE CHURCH CANNOT AFFORD TODAY:

1. In any day, and in this day especially, the church can ill afford to compromise its reputation as an institution that speaks the word of God, the Word upon whose truths men may faithfully trust their lives and their eternal destiny.
2. The Church could never afford, she cannot afford today, nor can she afford at any time in the future to make any mistakes when she proposes to reveal to man what the mind and will of God is for man. (THE CHURCH CANNOT AFFORD TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES IN WHAT SHE SAYS TO THE WORLD.)

SOME THINGS THE CHURCH HAS A RIGHT TO DO, AND SHOULD DO.

1. No right thinking person would deny the Church's scriptural right and duty to speak out through the pulpit, through representative presses and men, against great moral evils that arise in any community, state, nation.
 1. The Old Testament prophets thundered out against injustice, oppression, and all forms of social evils, and they did so in the name of the Lord.
 1. Individual Christians must, if they are faithful, speak in God's name against any and all unrighteousness in any society.
2. The Church must speak forth in revealing the spiritual needs of man. HER VOICE MUST UTTER TRUTH MEN CAN REJECT ONLY TO THEIR HURT.

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

1. That there is much wrong and some good in our world of today no person would deny. We have political corruption and racial disturbances in most every place and in every direction.
 1. Concerning the racial problem, the church so called, and its attempt to bring about a forced integration is unrealistic causing one to wonder if such denominations and their "official" voices really know the mind of Christ on the "Christian-government" relationship, or knowing, just don't care to the point of brazenly ignoring Christ's teaching?
2. HERE READ DAVID LAWRENCE'S COMMENT:

WHEN WILL THESE PROBLEMS BE SETTLED?

1. Political: When the politicians and their constituency all are governed by the moral principles contained in the teaching of Christ.
2. Racial Disorder: When the approach becomes Christian for both White and Negro in exercising the courtesy, patience and humility that Christ enjoined upon all who would follow him.

