

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms

Believers and the State

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

I. Intro

- A. Bereft of a video series—farewell, brother Piper
- B. Decided to begin an extended course on the relationship of the believer in Christ and the state/government
 - 1. Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Discovering the relationship & probing the tension between two Biblical truths:

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

Heb. 11:13-16: All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

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Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

I. Intro

- A. Bereft of a video series—farewell, brother Piper
- B. Decided to begin an extended course on the relationship of the believer in Christ and the state/government
 1. Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Discovering the relationship & probing the tension between two Biblical truths:
 - a. Also *Phil. 3:20-21* & *1 Pet. 2:11-17*
- C. Feel that the state will continue to exert more influence over our lives
 1. Social issues
 2. Example of other nations
 3. Upcoming elections

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I. Intro

- D. Not a course intended to promote a particular political philosophy & certainly not intended to tell you how to vote
- E. A course intended to help us think through God's purposes for the establishment of government & how we should relate to it
- F. Sermons from 1 Samuel
- G. Change in my awareness of our relationship to government in the last 10 years

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

II. Why Human Government?

A. Why are some humans given authority over others?

1. Mitigating & managing the effects of the Fall

a. Not sure we grasp how disastrous and ruinous it was

b. Estrangement from God produces estrangement among people

1b. Because we are made in His image

2b. The tragic words: *Gen. 3:8-9*

3b. The fast-following consequence: *Gen. 4:1-8*

i. Doubling down: *Gen. 4:23-24*

c. Prescribed (?) human response to manslaying: *Gen. 9:5-6*

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

II. Why Human Government?

A. Why are some humans given authority over others?

1. Mitigating & managing the effects of the Fall

d. *Rom. 13:3-4*

e. The reason human government is not the gateway to Utopia

2. Instrument of divine judgment

a. Redundancy?—not quite

b. *Gen. 15:13-16*

1b. The Exodus was both a rescue mission & the execution of God's sentence on the Canaanites

c. Governments as a judgment on their own people: *Is. 3:1-5*

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II. Why Human Government?

A. Why are some humans given authority over others?

3. Tangible, real-time relationship that helps us gauge our relationship to God

a. *1 John 4:20-21, Luke 6:35-36*

III. Over What Types of Issues Should Human Government Exercise Influence?

A. Can any government operate outside of value judgments?

1. In other words, can government be amoral?

a. Are there religious and non-religious values?

1a. All values based on a system of belief

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Believers and the State (part 4)

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

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Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

III. Over What Types of Issues Should Human Government Exercise Influence?

B. Government & legitimate values have a common source: God

1. Which of God's values are matters of conscience and which should people be coerced to honor and obey? (*1 Cor. 5:9-13*)

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Quiz: Should human government, through legislation and enforcement (including punishment for infractions), coerce people to:

	Yes	No	?
Refrain from worshipping any god other than the God of the Bible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abstain from idolatry?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Avoid taking an oath in God's name that they don't intend to fulfill?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worship only on the Biblically prescribed day of the week?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Obey and respect their parents?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Refrain from killing other human beings for profit or from personal spite?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abstain from sexual relationships outside of marriage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Refrain from taking the property of others?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Avoid slandering others or accusing them falsely?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rid themselves of jealous thoughts and feelings regarding the property and circumstances of other people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms

Believers and the State (part 5)

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Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State--Class Overview

I. Purposes of Government

- A. Why does human government exist?
- B. What does God intend to accomplish through it?

II. Proper Role & Limits of Government

- A. What things can and should be the aims of human government?
- B. What things should governments try or not try to accomplish through coercion?
- C. Is there a form of government best suited to God's purposes?

III. Responsibilities to Government

- A. What duties does the believer have toward government?
- B. To what extent and by which means should believers seek to influence the forms and function of government?

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State--Class Overview

IV. Opposition to Government

- A. When are Christians morally responsible to resist government?
- B. What form should resistance take?

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms

Believers and the State (part 5)

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

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B. Government & legitimate values have a common source: God

1. Which of God's values are matters of conscience and which should people be coerced to honor and obey? (*1 Cor. 5:9-13*)
 - d. Are you more comfortable with Christians being in a defensive position or an offensive one?
 - 1d. *Political Thinking*, Glenn Tinder
 - 2d. Matt. 10:16-20; John 19:33-36;
 - e. Are there right and legitimate ways for believers to use state power?
 - 1e. Acts 16:35-40; 25:6-12

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms

Believers and the State (part 5)

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B. Government & legitimate values have a common source: God

e. Are there right and legitimate ways for believers to use state power?

1e. Acts 16:35-40; 25:6-12

2e. Gen. 41:33-42; Jonah 3:6-10

f. Two different expressions of God's work in, for & through His people

1f. Heb. 11:32-38

2f. Courage of convictions

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Believers and the State (part 5)

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IV. Are There Forms of Government that Are More Suitable to God's Purposes?

A. What types of government do we encounter in the Scriptures?

1. Things to bear in mind:

- a. Logistical factors will impact forms of government
- b. Israel is a unique situation: the birth of a nation

2. Patriarchy

- a. Example of Abraham: Gen. 14:14-16
- b. Example of Laban: Gen. 31:22-23; 43-44

3. Council of elders

- a. Ex. 3:13-17
- b. Deut. 21:18-21

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

IV. Are There Forms of Government that Are More Suitable to God's Purposes?

A. What types of government do we encounter in the Scriptures?

4. Theocratic Judgeship

a. Judges 2:11-19

5. Monarchy

a. Gen. 10:6-14

6. Empire

B. Autocratic vs. representative government

C. How does/should our view of human nature and the purposes of government impact our understanding of which forms of government should be preferred?

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Rom. 13:1-7 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. 5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

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IV. Are There Forms of Government that Are More Suitable to God's Purposes?

C. How does/should our view of human nature and the purposes of government (*1. mitigating and managing the effects of the Fall, 2. serving as an instrument of divine judgment, 3. providing a tangible, real-time relationship that helps us to gauge our relationship to God*) impact our understanding of which forms of government should be preferred?

1. If people are basically evil, what are the consequences of unchecked government?
 - 1a. Is it preferable to have an autocratic regime that is merely corrupt or one that is ideological?
 - 2a. Is it reasonable to assume that it is more likely to have a principled, God-fearing autocrat (i.e., David, Josiah) than a principled, God-fearing populous?

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

- IV. Are There Forms of Government that Are More Suitable to God's Purposes?
 - 2. If people are basically evil, what are the consequences of severely limited government?
 - 2a. Is it reasonable to conclude that a large group of people with competing interests, values, backgrounds, etc. will arrive simultaneously at similar conclusions as to which direction a society should take?
 - i. Is it reasonable to conclude that should the former happen, those conclusions will be objectively just, right and honoring to God?
 - 2b. Are human beings disposed toward the kind of self-government necessary to prevent freedom from being used as an opportunity for evil? (Ex. 32:1-10)

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IV. Are There Forms of Government that Are More Suitable to God's Purposes?

D. Is the form of government as important as the quality of its execution?

E. A Little Perspective

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V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

A. The Mental Game: Consider the Origin & Purposes of Government

1. What impact does understanding have on our conduct?
2. If we don't contemplate the origin and purposes of human government, on what will our attitudes and actions regarding government be based?

B. A Cooperative Disposition

1. If government comes from God, we should want to cooperate with it and help it realize the reason for which it exists.
2. What distinguishes a cooperative disposition from blind acceptance?

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V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

C. The Means of Cooperation

1. Pray

- a. Why might prayer be a logical place to begin our discussion of the means through which we cooperate with the institution of government?
 - 1a. Looks to the One who created government to plead for it's just and right execution.
- b. 1 Tim. 2:1-8

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V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

b. 1 Tim. 2:1-8

1b. Historical/political context

2b. Multifaceted nature of prayer:

- i. "entreaties" (δεήσεις): Rom. 10:1, 2 Cor. 1:11, Eph. 6:18, Phil. 4:6, 1 Tim. 5:5, Heb. 5:7
- ii. "prayer" (προσευχάς): Rom. 15:30, Col. 4:12, James 5:17; 1 Pet. 3:7; 1 Pet. 4:7
- iii. "petitions" (εντευχεις): 1 Tim. 4:5
- iv. "thanksgivings" (εὐχαριστίας): 2 Cor. 4:15; Eph. 5:4; Phil. 4:6; Col. 4:2

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b. 1 Tim. 2:1-8

2b. Multifaceted nature of prayer:

i. Gives a sense of consistency and intensity

3b. Authority figures incorporated into prayers for "all men."

i. They are not more than the rest of humanity, but they are not less.

4b. The gospel holds sway over those who pull the levers of power.

5b. Paul has a definite end in view.

i. Why might a desire for "peace and quiet" develop as we get older?

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C. The Means of Cooperation

1. Pray

c. Ps. 84:8-9

d. Jer. 29:1-7

1d. Does not specifically mention leaders, but hard to imagine that it excludes them.

2b. Prayer for a foreign nation holding God's people captive as part of His discipline on them.

3b. A prayer that comes from surrender to God's design.

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2. Honor & Obey

a. Terms of Respect

1a. Dan. 4:19; 6:21

2a. Neh. 2:3

3a. Acts 26:25

b. Where are you on the spectrum?



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2. Honor & Obey

b. Where are you on the spectrum?



1b. As you look at those around you, what disposes them to resist? To comply?

2b. Do you have an "internal evaluator?"

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2. Honor & Obey

b. Where are you on the spectrum?

c. Rom. 13:1-7

1c. Statement (v. 1a); Reasons (vv. 1b-6); Summary (v. 7)

2c. What are the reasons Paul gives us for obeying?

3c. Can't claim perfection.

i. But we need to keep wrestling & adjust as necessary.

d. 1 Pet. 2:11-18

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Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

C. The Means of Cooperation

2. Honor & Obey

c. Rom. 13:1-7

d. 1 Pet. 2:11-18

1d. How does Peter describe his audience in v. 11? How might this impact the commands or directives he shares in vv. 12-18?

2d. How does Peter's mention of our freedom fit in with his commands to submit, obey and honor? In what way is our freedom qualified?

3d. What reason does Peter provide for obeying in v. 15?

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms

Believers and the State

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Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

C. The Means of Cooperation

3. "Speak Truth to Power"

a. What does it mean?

b. If "speaking truth to power" may take an oppositional turn (i.e., pointing out a failing, exposing misdeeds, or revealing the error in a plan or policy), in what way might we still consider it a means of cooperation?

1a. Remember our goal isn't mere compliance but cooperation.

c. The efficacy of speech: "The pen is mightier than the sword"?

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

C. The Means of Cooperation

3. "Speak Truth to Power"

c. The efficacy of speech: "The pen is mightier than the sword"?

1c. When you think of speaking out against evil do you view it as a significant act or do you feel that it pales in comparison to other measures (voting, boycotts, lawsuits, violence, etc.)?

2c. How do you think society in general views the power of speech?

3c. Distinguished by suppression: Why are they so afraid of it?

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

C. The Means of Cooperation

3. "Speak Truth to Power"

c. The efficacy of speech: "The pen is mightier than the sword"?

3c. Distinguished by suppression: Why are they so afraid of it?

i. Jer. 11:19-21; 20:1-2; 26:8-11

ii. Acts 4:1-3

iii. Internet suppression

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State



Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

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iii. Internet suppression

iv. "De-platforming"

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State



Citizens of 2 Kingdoms

Believers and the State

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V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

C. The Means of Cooperation

3. "Speak Truth to Power"

- Review:

- Oppositional speech can still be a means of cooperation b/c:
 - It helps civil authority to be what God created it to be
 - It can be delivered in a respectful way
- The pen can be mightier than the sword, but . . .
 - Must be used in the right context
 - Must be backed up by character & action

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

C. The Means of Cooperation

3. "Speak Truth to Power"

- Review:

- The power of speech is evidenced in:

- The steps that governments have taken and still take to suppress it
- The ways it has been used with great effectiveness in the past, not always to good ends

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

C. The Means of Cooperation

3. "Speak Truth to Power"

d. What might speech accomplish that more coercive methods of change do not?

1d. Appeals to the power of truth

2d. Provides an opportunity for a change of heart instead of mere submission of the will.

3d. Clarifies issues and helps mitigate misunderstandings.

i. Case Study: The Declaration of Independence

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

Case Study: The Declaration of Independence

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

Case Study: The Declaration of Independence

“The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.”

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury.

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

Case Study: The Declaration of Independence

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence.

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

Case Study: The Declaration of Independence

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms

Believers and the State

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V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

C. The Means of Cooperation

3. "Speak Truth to Power"

- e. When you think of speaking truth to power, what forms of speech or situations come to mind?
- f. The inclusion of political figures in the apostolic witness:
 - 1f. Matt. 10:16-20
 - 2f. Acts 9:10-16

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

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3. "Speak Truth to Power"

f. The inclusion of political figures in the apostolic witness:

g. Biblical examples:

1g. Ex. 5:1

2g. Jer. 37:15-31

3g. 2 Sam. 12:1-15

4g. Luke 3:18-20; 13:31-32

5g. John 18:33-38

6g. Acts 25 & 26

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

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3. "Speak Truth to Power"

h. Don't want to be over specific in application.

1h. Various forms of speech can be used by God.

2h. Start with a mindset—conviction that speech has power.

3h. Deal with the situations at hand and go where God leads.

4h. Bring the light of truth.

5h. Col. 4:5-6

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Believers and the State

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Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

C. The Means of Cooperation

4. Resist Evil

a. Last phase of our study. Review:

1a. Why does human government exist?

2a. Over what issues should human government exercise influence?

3a. Is there a form of government that is best suited to God's purposes?

b. We began this study on 9/16/18. Since that time, do you think you've considered the role of government in your life more or less?

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V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

C. The Means of Cooperation

4. Resist Evil

- c. Frustrated, distressed or angry?
- d. If so, upset over specific actions, extent to which authority has been exercised, or both?
- e. Are your inclinations/desires ever at odds with rules/laws you know are just and right?
- f. How do we develop a framework? What does that question imply?
- g. All human authority is conferred authority.

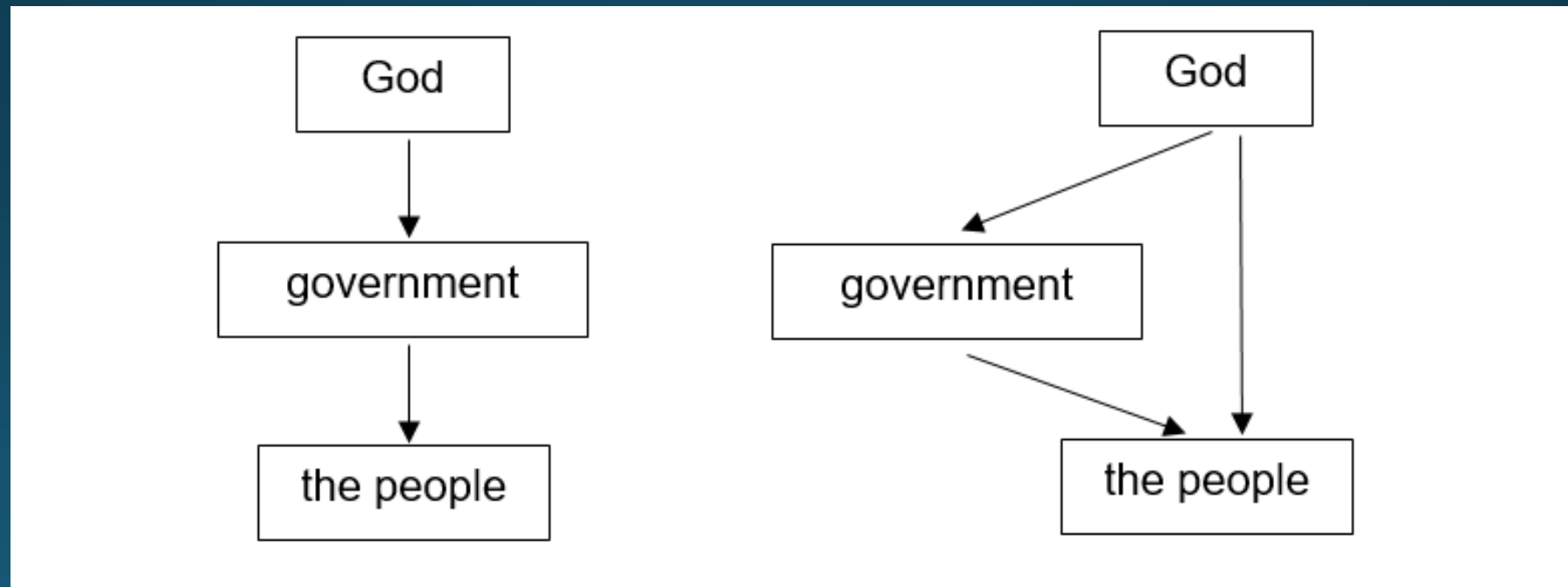
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V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

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h. 2 models of God's work through human, civil government:



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Believers and the State

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V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

C. The Means of Cooperation

4. Resist Evil

- i. Passages describing an individual/group disobeying government to obey God?
- j. Biblical catalog of Civil Disobedience:
 - 1j. Gen. 31:1-55
 - 2j. Ex. 1:15-22
 - 3j. Josh. 2:1-21
 - 4j. Judges 6:25-32
 - 5j. 1 Sam. 14:24-45

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4. Resist Evil

k. While government is given as an instrument of God to mitigate the effects of the fall, in what ways can government actually compound and aggravate the effects of the fall?

1k. Make materials necessary to life harder to obtain through shortages or fatigue

2k. Promote human estrangement and division

3k. Codify injustice

4k. Is. 3:1-4

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

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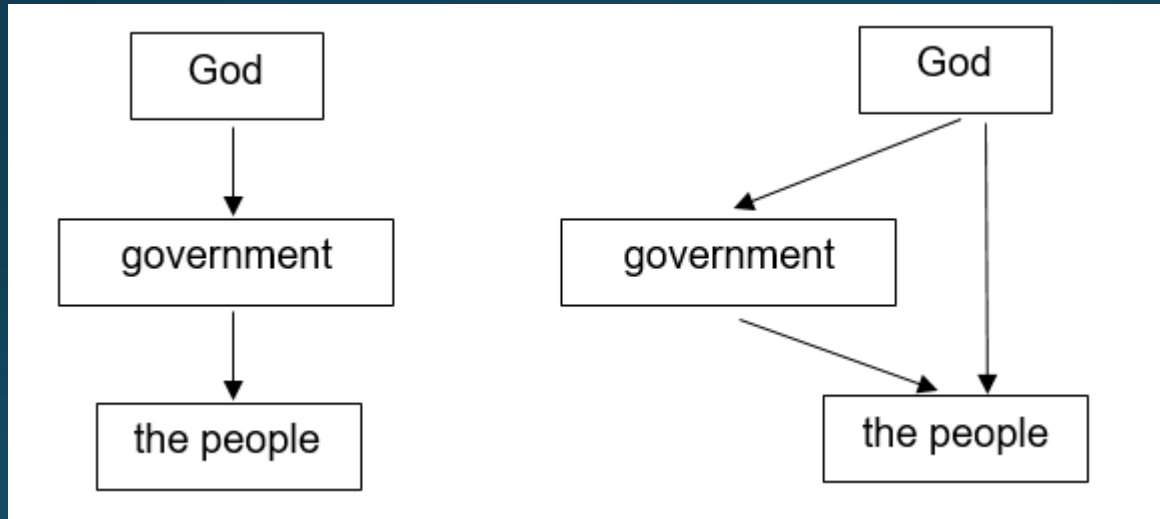
- I. Apart from corruption, what are a/some practical shortcoming(s) of centralized government?
 - 1I. Further removes decision-making from the environment in which its effects are felt.
 - 2I. The governed are better positioned to gauge the impact of those decisions and offer correctives.
- m. Re-envisioning resistance:
 - 1m. Often focus on what resistance can do for the people (i.e., guarding their rights)—what can it do for government?
 - 2m. Can the willingness of the governed to disagree with and push back against the government help to save it from failing in its mission?

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

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n. "Go to the people. Let them instruct you."

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Believers and the State

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4. Resist Evil

n. Guidelines for civil disobedience?

1n. Cannot be a repudiation of the institution

i. Dan. 6:10; 19-22

ii. Rom. 13:1-2

2n. Personal dislike for government action cannot be the only basis for resistance.

i. Gal. 5:16-17

ii. Does opposition to government mandates more often begin *personally* or *philosophically*?

iii. What about unjust laws/orders that may benefit you?

Citizens of 2 Kingdoms: Believers and the State

V. What Are the Believer's Responsibilities to Human Government?

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4. Resist Evil

n. Guidelines for civil disobedience?

3n. Evidence of government action being opposed to its purpose for existing or excessive of its jurisdiction should be present.

i. Ask: "What is the objective of this law/order?"

ii. Keep the purposes for government in view.

4n. Legal means should be sought first.

i. Foundation of Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17

ii. Examples: Dan. 1:8-16; Acts 16:35-40; 25:6-12

iii. Can be an arduous process, but help future generations.

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n. Guidelines for civil disobedience?

5n. Reconciliation should be facilitated and revenge avoided.

i. Rom. 12:17-21

ii. Examples from history & today

6n. The interests of Christ's kingdom should be foremost in our thinking.

i. We must understand, however, that service in Christ's kingdom is multifaceted.

ii. What, in each situation that we face, will serve Christ's kingdom best?

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n. Guidelines for civil disobedience?

o. An example from history.

p. *Pr. 21:1: The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.*