

“peaceful and quiet lives”

Religious Liberty

1 Timothy 2:1-2

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1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone — **2** for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

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Religious Liberty

“God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it.

Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others.”

“peaceful and quite lives”

“Religious liberty has always been a Baptist principle and a Baptist passion. As Hershel Hobbs explained, “Religious liberty is the mother of all true freedom.” Our commitment is to religious liberty for all peoples, not just for Baptists, because we believe that every human being is created in God’s image and possesses full rights and freedoms granted by the Creator, as well as full accountability.”

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Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

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Acts 4:19-20

19 But Peter and John replied,
“Judge for yourselves whether it
is right in God’s sight to obey you
rather than God. **20** As for us, we
cannot help speaking about what
we have seen and heard.”

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John 8:32, 36

**32 Then you will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free.”**

**36 So if the Son sets you free, you
will be free indeed.**

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Philippians 3:20

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

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“...we are not free from the commandments and doctrines of God’s Word but from the dictates and commandments of earthly powers that are in anyway contrary to God’s Word.”

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“Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends.”

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Romans 13:1-7

1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. **2**

Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. **4** For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. **6** This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. **7** Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

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1 Peter 2:13-17

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, **14** or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. **16** Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. **17** Show proper respect to everyone, love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

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Matthew 22:18-21

18 But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? **19** Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, **20** and he asked them, “Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?” **21** “Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said to them, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

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“The government has a right to tax, as well as a right and responsibility to maintain order and to protect its citizens. But no government has the right to coerce the conscience or to persecute citizens because of their religious convictions.”

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The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion.

A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

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Amendment 1, The Bill of Rights:

**Congress shall make no law
respecting an establishment of
religion or prohibiting the free
exercise thereof,**

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“Baptists must insist that the church should be independent of the state, but we must also insist that the state must not be hostile to the church or to the free and full participation of all citizens—including Christians—in the public life of the nation. Baptists must counter any hostility toward religious expression on the basis of historic Baptist principles.”

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“Christians must be free to bring their Biblically informed understanding of moral truth to the nation’s public policy debates as the salt and the light that Christ has commanded them to be, even as they contend for full religious liberty for all citizens, whatever their faith.”

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Matthew 5:13-16

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Applications

- **We must support religious liberty, even as we know that other religious “faiths” are false.**
- **We must and can express our faith in Jesus Christ in the public square.**
- **Our faith in Jesus Christ must be our “worldview”**

Final Thoughts

1 Peter 4:12-19

12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. **13** But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. **15** If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. **16** However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

17 For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

18 And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" **19** So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Final Thoughts

“Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Holy Scriptures or by evident reason - for I can believe neither pope nor councils alone, as it is clear that they have erred repeatedly and contradicted themselves -

I consider myself convicted by the testimony of Holy Scripture, which is my basis; my conscience is captive to the Word of God.

Thus I cannot and will not recant, because acting against one's conscience is neither safe nor sound. God help me. Amen.”