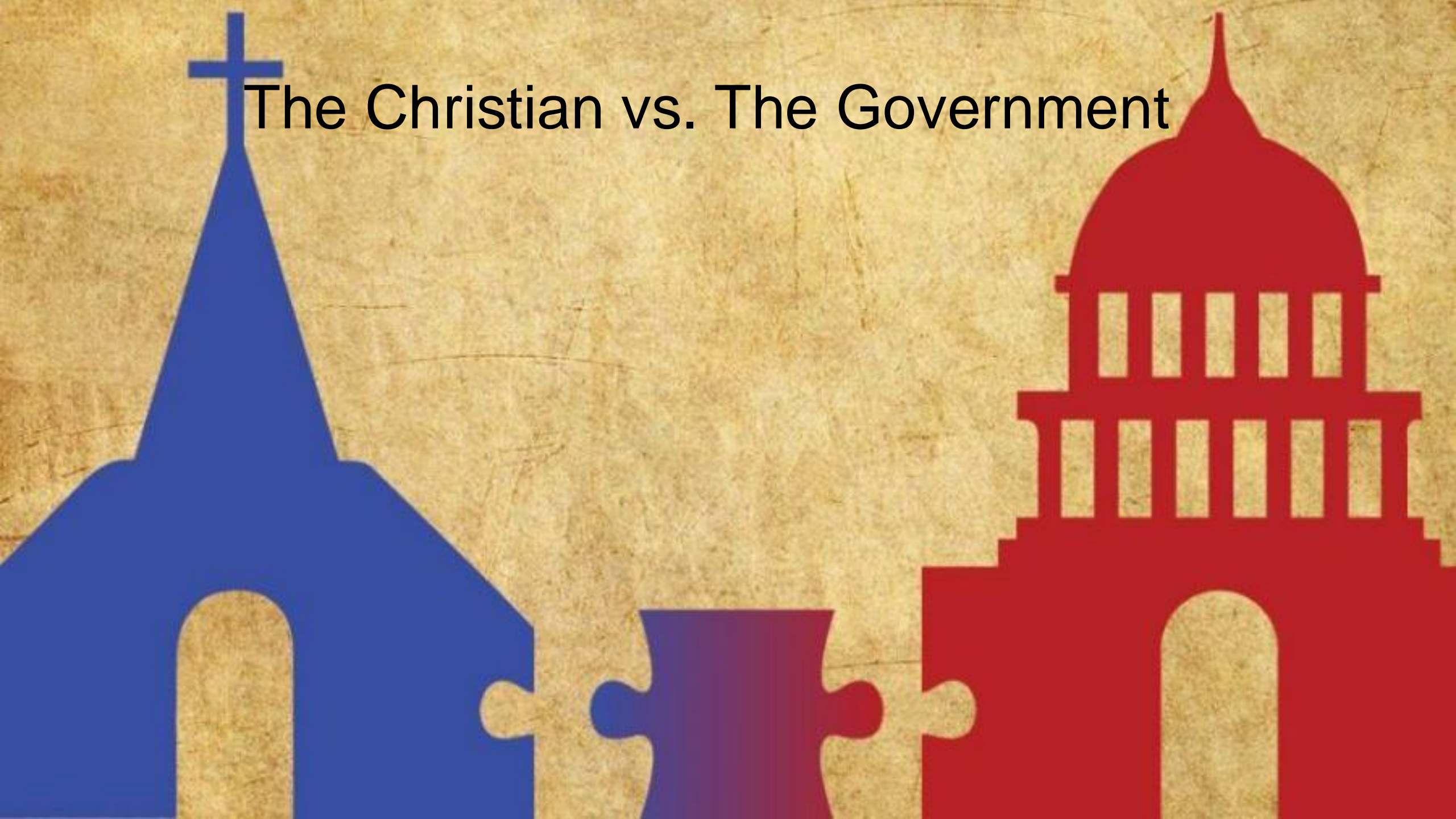


The Christian vs. The Government



Saint Augustine on government: (4th century A.D.)

- ✓ Government is a necessary evil and it is necessary because of evil!
- ✓ A corrupt government is better than no government at all.

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show humility toward all men. (*Titus 3:1-2*)

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

This is good and pleases God our Savior who wants all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. *(1 Tim. 2:1-4)*

This, then is how you should pray... your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. *(Mt. 6:10)*

- **obedient** citizen
 - duty of **prayer** for those in authority

The Bible teaches that Christians should be subject/submissive to government unless the government forbids what God expects or requires what God forbids. This is when we must obey God **rather than** man. (*Acts 5:29*)

THEOCRACY? This was unique to Israel.

SEPARATION of Church/State does not mean:
State should not acknowledge God or is
unaccountable to God.

Rom. 13:4 – He [King/governor/president, etc.] is God's servant to do you good.

Rom. 13:4 – He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

Rom. 13:6 – The authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

SEPARATION... does not mean:

- civil laws cannot address moral issues
(This would be impossible)
- church should ignore state or refuse
to speak out against it

SEPARATION of Church/State does mean:

- civil laws and moral values are **different realities**
- The **calling** and **character** of the Christian does not change when govt./laws change.
- Both **allow** the other to worship or legislate without feeling obligated to micromanage the other's role.

TWO KINGDOMS

- IDEAL = humans creating laws based upon divine revelation
- CHRISTIAN = I will BE or I will VOTE FOR this ideal
- CHRISTIAN = Since I am a citizen of God's Kingdom, my moral values are neither based upon nor influenced by civil law.

The purpose of government is **society**
[management, order, security,
infrastructure, commerce, peace, etc.]
Tools/Resources > external.

The purpose of the church is to express God's salvation and character in individual lives [love, forgiveness, humility, honesty, etc.]

Tools/Resources > internal

Government seeks to change culture/behavior from the **outside** while the church seeks to change individuals from the **inside**.

Mt. 6:33 So first of all seek the
Kingdom of God and his righteousness.
And everything else will be added to you
(taken care of).

Political activism has influenced government toward both righteousness (civil rights) and evil (abortion). Activism should not be our main hope or focus.

We must primarily seek and serve God's kingdom and not be **overly concerned** whether the government/law is our **friend** or **foe**.

Do everything without complaining or arguing so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life. (*Phil. 2:14*)

The stars do not expect the darkness
to **cooperate**, they simply **shine!**