Biblical View of Government and Immigration

Outline:

1. Government
2. Immigration
3. Political Parties and USA Gov Involvement
4. **Government – Civil Disobedience**

3 Logical Options:

* Civil Disobedience is NEVER Right
  + “Radical Patriotism”
* Civil Disobedience is SOMETIMES Right
  + “Willful Submission”
* Civil Disobedience is ALWAYS Right
  + “Anarchism”

Anarchism

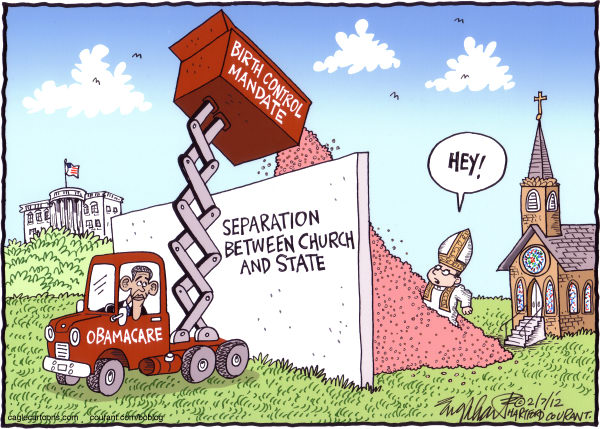
* No biblical support
* Gen 9 – God ordains Human Government after the Flood
* Various instructions to “submit” to the Government (Rom 13:1-7; 1 Pet 2:13-17; Titus 3:1)

Radical Patriotism

* Biblical Support:
  + Rom 13:1-7 – Submit to the governing authorities.
  + Matthew 22:17-22 – Render to Caesar
  + Examples of submission even to Evil Governments (Daniel to Babylon, Nehemiah to Persia, Israel to Egypt)
* Biblical Refutation:
  + Examples of OT Saints (Moses, Judges, Prophets, midwives in Ex 1)
  + Example of Jesus (Jn 2:15)
  + Example of the Apostles (Acts 4:18-29 5:28-29)
  + Example in Revelation (14:9-10 [cf 13:15])

Willful Submission

* Biblical Support:
  + Render to Caesar (Matt 22:17-22)
  + Appeal to Conscience/Morality (James 4:17; Rom 13:1-7)
  + Obey God’s laws first, man’s laws second (Acts 5:29; Dan 3; John 19:11, Reformation)
  + Accept human punishment for disobedience? (E.g. Jesus vs E.g. Paul vs E.g. Paul at other times)
    - Refer back to conscience.

**Government – Separation of Church and State**

* NOT separation of God and State, or Morality and State
* Church History examples
  + Early Church (Fully separate)
    - Persecution and holiness, lack of uniformity
  + Constantine (co-operation)
    - Creeds and clarity, lack of complete sincerity
  + Holy Roman Empire/Dark Ages (Fully integrated)
    - Unity and clarity, lack of purity

1. **Immigration**

Popular Views

* Illegal immigrants are law-breakers and should be punished accordingly.
* Illegal immigrants are more like refugees and should be treated mercifully.

Biblical Insights

* Mosaic Law (Lev 19:9-17, 33-34)
* Heb 13:2 – Welcome Christians you don’t know
* Lk 13:29, Rev 7:9 – Every tribe and tongue will have Christians
* 2 Thess 3:11-12 – He who does not work…
* 1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:19-21; Eph 5:3-6 – Paul’s sin lists that include thieves and swindlers.
  + Could illegal immigration be considered theft?
* Paul’s recognition and use of Roman citizenship to his own advantage (Acts 22:25; 25:10-11)

My View

* Institutionally: respective of laws and supportive of strict enforcement on citizenship and immigration.
* Personally: helpful, humble, and forgiving to illegal immigrants recognizing their struggles.
* Policy: A form of path to citizenship while increasing border security and decreasing illegal immigration.

1. **Political Parties and USA Government Involvement**

* Conservative vs. Liberal and Republican vs. Democrat
  + They’re not the same
  + Political ideology vs Political party
* Democratic Republic of the USA
  + We live in a republic
  + We have a say in our government
  + We have a responsibility to stay involved

Always remember… Phil 3:20-21 – “Our citizenship is in heaven…