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Rightside- Up Living in Upside- Down Times

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How politically correct should a Christian be in today's world?

If "political correctness" connotes the culture's demands that one's personal opinions and considerations in life be culturally informed rather than biblically informed, then there is *no* acceptable level of political correctness. Given this, the caution for the believer is to be sure that one's opinions are grounded in the Word of God rightly-divided, not simply personally-preferred.

But if followers of Christ are offensive, doesn't that compromise their witness for Christ?

Yes—but that must not influence the Christian's call to speak the Truth in love. Jesus didn't tell the woman at the well what she wanted to hear. In that instance things worked out okay, but such is not a guaranteed outcome. We tend to forget that sin separates.

If we are speaking the Truth even in love we *will* be offensive. Jesus was. Remember that He wasn't crucified for pandering to the prevailing winds of culture. He said, "If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you." (John 15:20) But believers should be sure that it is the Truth that is offensive and not their dissemination of it.

Are Christians supposed to honor the king even when the king is wrong?

Some argue that, because the government uses some taxes for illicit purposes, we should not pay taxes. But Jesus handled that quite effectively in His "Render to Caesar what is Caesar's..." lesson. Romans 13:1-7 tells Christians to be subject to governing authorities because government is to be a cause for good and not evil. If Christians overlook that key qualification, their subjection to authority is likely to be skewed. The Bible never advocates blind submission, but rather submission to a government whose laws reflect the heart and mind of God. In such cases, the government *is* an agent of God and to rebel would be a serious offense.

When is civil disobedience right?

America is (ideally) a nation of duly enacted laws, so a general if vague principle would be: anytime the government disobeys its own rules for "just operation," then civil disobedience might be justified.

When a condition arises that clearly prohibits obedience to God's commands, civil disobedience may not only be permitted but obligated. I was once personally jailed for my



participation in peacefully blockading an abortion clinic.

Likewise, if the government was to mandate that churches perform homosexual weddings, I would refuse to comply. Rahab, Daniel, and Pharaoh's daughter (saving baby Moses) all exemplify civil disobedience and are favorably remembered for it to this day.

In light of Romans 13, was Bonhoeffer morally right to assist in a plot to assassinate Hitler?

Yes. But a Christian should not confuse vigilantism with the unique power of the state to "wield the sword." When the state uses the sword for evil as Hitler did, its citizens must hold the state accountable.

What's wrong with the redistribution of wealth?

Nothing if I am the one redistributing "my own" wealth, "...for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7) God is generous and often blesses us that we may bless others. Charity issues from the heart of God. But taking wealth by force of law from one person and giving it to another is neither charitable nor benevolent. In fact, it is tantamount to theft.

Aren't Christians essentially trying to promote theocracy?

Some may envision that as their mission on earth, but only some. What is often confused with "promoting theocracy" is merely an individual's inalienable right to follow one's faith.

But wouldn't it be biblical and helpful to establish a theocracy?

No—neither biblical nor helpful. First, theocracy in Old Testament times was hardly a panacea for the woes of God's people. And second, Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world..." (John 18:36) The Christian's mission is to seek and save those who are spiritually lost, not to change this kingdom into heaven on earth. God will take care of that in due time.

More Evidence in Defense and Confirmation of the Christian Faith