

## Under Authority - Civic Authority

**Romans 13:1** NKJV- *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

The preamble to the constitution of the United States:

**We the People** of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Tranquility – peaceful

Justice - what is right

Welfare - the enjoyment of peace and prosperity

Blessings of Liberty - freedom and ability to live in that freedom

Posterity - succeeding

Can you see in the preamble of the Constitution of the United States that Biblical values have been woven into the fabric of our country?

**1 Timothy 2:1-2** NLT - *I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.*

**Proverbs 3:1-2** NKJV - *My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you.*

**Isaiah 1:17** NLT - *Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.*

**Galatians 5:1** NKJV - *Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*

We are blessed to live in a country where our freedom in Christ is celebrated not infringed upon.

**Proverbs 13:22** NKJV - *A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.*

God is a generational God and thinks in terms of city and nation transformation, and generations.

All of these things are common themes of the Bible.

**WE THE PEOPLE are in charge. We are the authority.**

We don't report to or work for our elected officials, they work for us! They are supposed to be representatives of us.

We get to decide the future direction of our country. Not China or any other foreign government, we do. And our founding fathers put into our constitution the limitations of government so that WE THE PEOPLE will remain in charge. Because they knew that once people get power and position, they are not likely to give it up.

We are under the civic authority of our nation, but our nation has given authority to the people. In our country we get to decide who our leaders will be, we vote them in and vote them out!! **If we don't have the leaders we want and our nation is not going the direction we want it to go, guess who's fault it is? OURS!!!**

It is our responsibility, as the authority in this nation, to vote.

If Christian's would just be educated in the Word of God, and civic law, we'd win every election! And get our country back.

How does God look at this? Does God even care who we elect as leaders?

**Hosea 8:4** NLT - *The people have appointed kings without my consent, and princes without my approval. By making idols for themselves from their silver and gold, they have brought about their own destruction.*

It's obvious from this verse that God pointed out that the people put a leader in place without His consent. We need to pray about who we put in office and seek His direction.

God said the destruction you brought on yourself by putting in office the leaders you put in office. *WE THE PEOPLE* chose our leaders. The condition of the nation reflects the level of our engagement.

**Article 1 section 2 of the Constitution** – *“The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several states.....”*

The key word here is CHOSEN. Chosen by the people. They represent us. If they don't represent us, we choose someone else who will represent us.

It's our vote that chooses them. If we don't vote we don't choose and we allow others to choose for us.

**Noah Webster** - *When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers just men who will rule in the fear of God. The preservation of our government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty, if the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made, not for the public good so much as for selfish or local purposes; corrupt or incompetent men will be appointed to execute the laws; the public revenues will be squandered on unworthy men; and the rights of the citizens will be violated or disregarded. If our government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the divine commands and elect bad men to make and administer the laws.*

This is prophetic. Noah Webster perfectly describes our culture today. And he said that this will only happen in our government, where we the people are in authority, if we the people do not exercise our right and vote.

This leads to where a lot of people bring up the whole separation of church and state.

The whole idea was for the people of the United States to elect Godly leaders who follow God's Word, divine commands, and our nation will prosper, the people will prosper.

**Proverbs 29:2 NKJV** - *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.*

It matters who is in authority, it matters who we elect as leaders.

Culture has worked hard to tell Christians to stay quiet and disengaged. Christians you just go stand in the corner and be quiet.

We have to understand that yes, we are under Civic Authority, but that Civic Authority is us. Yes, we chose representatives for us to go to Washington, Austin, or even locally, but if they don't represent us then we need to exercise our right and get involved getting Godly people in public office serving the rest of society. Not dictating society, mandating us to do things. That's the opposite of freedom.

This is why during COVID when the government was ordering shutdowns, particularly of churches, we have to stand up and say no.

**What about separation of Church and State?**

It's a lie!

**First Amendment of the Constitution** – *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

**Benjamin Rush** - *“Patriotism is as much as virtue as justice, and is as necessary for the support of societies as natural affection is for the support of families.”*

**Patriotism**- love for or devotion to one's country

Love for your country just like you love your family. Because your fellow countrymen are your family. How could you keep a family together without love? How can you keep your country together without patriotism?

*“The love of country is both moral and a religious duty. It comprehends not only the love of our neighbors but of millions of our fellow creatures, not only of the present but the future generations.”*

If you love your country, you'll do what's best for this nation and your fellow men. Not just thinking about yourself. If you love others, you want this country to be successful and future generations to be successful.

**Matthew 22:36-39** NKJV - *Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

We live in a nation that has been uniquely setup where we can do both Love our God and Love others!

Love your neighbor as yourself. That's what patriotism is all about.

Patriotism is loving our country and loving our country is loving your neighbor. Where I'm not just looking after MY personal interests, but I want to make sure that my neighbor is taken care of as well. And not just our generation, but generations after us!!

### **Our Pledge of Allegiance**

**Colonel George Balch** - *“We give our heads and our hearts to God and our country; one country, one language, one flag.”*

With the support of President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1954, congress passed a new bill that added the words “UNDER GOD”.

As a nation we recognize that we are under God's authority. And this nation was established under God and was setup with Biblical principles and values we are to pass down to each generation as we enjoy freedom, peace, the blessings of liberty.

We are in charge and we as Christians need to stand up and use the freedom we have to transform our nation.