

Romans 13:1-7 Submission to the Authorities

¹Everyone 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. ²Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers hold no terror for

Romans 13:1-7 (cont.)

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. ⁴For 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. ⁵Therefore, it is necessary to

Romans 13:1-7 (cont.)

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

Mark 12:13-17 Paying Taxes to Caesar

¹³Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words.

¹⁴They came to him and said, “Teacher, we know you are a man of integrity. You aren’t swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? ¹⁵Should we pay or shouldn’t we?”

Mark 12:13-17 (cont.)

But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. “Why are you trying to trap me?” he asked. “Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” ¹⁶They brought the coin, and he asked them, “Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?” “Caesar’s,” they replied. ¹⁷Then Jesus said to them, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” And they were amazed at him.



The First Amendment to the Constitution:

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



I. When is it appropriate (even necessary) for the Church to speak out?

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POLITICAL (partisan) vs. INFLUENTIAL ...

Action as a CITIZEN vs. as a CHRISTIAN ...



II. What's at stake in the current status of our nation's healthcare mandate?

Showed Video here.

Can view the same video at:

<http://video.lcms.org/archives/928>

“religion is a matter between God and individuals, religious opinions of men not being the objects of civil government nor any way under its control.”

That is why I am here to decry the contraception, abortifacient, and sterilization mandate issued by the Department of Health and Human Services on January 20, 2012.



The policy is an unconscionable intrusion by the state into the consciences of American citizens. Contrary to portrayals in some of the popular media, this is not only a Catholic issue. All people of faith— and even those who claim no faith— have a stake in whether or not the government can violate the consciences of its citizenry.

Religious liberty and the freedom to obey one's conscience is also



not just a Baptist issue. It is an American issue that is enshrined in our *founding documents.*

C. Ben Mitchell, Ph.D.

Graves Professor of Moral Philosophy
Union University



“Furthermore, we believe and teach that freedom of religion extends beyond mere houses of worship. We must be able to exercise our faith in *the public square* and, in response to Christ’s call, demonstrate His mercy through our love and compassion for all people according to the clear teachings of Holy Scripture.

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison,
President of the Lutheran Church-
Missouri Synod.



Showed a video here, of Rep. Rosa DeLauro speaking at the Congressional Hearing of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, on Feb. 16, 2012.

You can view her speaking following Rep. Connelly speaking, on this site:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-EUceDNfA3E>



**Church as “Provider”
vs.
Church as “Employer”**

Does it matter? ...



**When is it “right” for government to
limit or restrict Religious Liberty?**



**III. What do Christians, and the Church,
need to be prepared to do, to
“remain faithful to the end?”**

Acts 4:18-19

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John replied, ***“Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God.***



Acts 4:29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

Acts 5:28-29 “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: ***“We must obey God rather than men!”***



“There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.” —

Martin Luther King, Jr.



"Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason - I do not accept the authority of the popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other - my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen." —

Martin Luther (1521)



Showed Rep. Connolly speaking here. Just showed an excerpt of him speaking on the same video as Rep. DeLauro (earlier), and at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-EUceDNfA3E>

Matthew 10:17-22

¹⁷“Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. ¹⁸On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit



Matthew 10:17-22 (cont.)

of your Father speaking through you.

²¹“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.

²²All men will hate you because of me, but ***he who stands firm to the end will be saved.***



