

# The Message

Pastor Ron Smith

## **The Authority of Civil Disobedience**

**Matthew 26:51-52**

And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.”



To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven . . . A time of war, and a time of peace (Ecclesiastes 3:1,8).



# **But Is Never the Time to Resist Arrest**

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God . . . he [the ruler] does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister to you for good (Romans 13:1-2).



**When Is It Time for the Government to Go to War?**



# Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident,

1. That all men are created equal,
2. That they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,
3. That among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. —
4. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —
5. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government. . .



**The French Revolution was illegal.**

**Heirs of Barabbas**

Mob rule and class envy

“Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries” (Jude 8).



# Patterns of History

And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of the plunderers who despoiled them; and He **sold them** into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies (Judges 2:14).



# How Does This Apply to Our Situation?

If Christians would obey the covenant and repent, there would be no need for taking up arms. The right policies would be voted in. It is not time for that. God will not approve of it.



# Resistance Must Be Legal

The American War of Independence came through the duly elected governments of the 13 colonies. King George broke the contract.



# Two Clear Precedents

1. The Scottish Covenanters
2. The Glorious Revolution.



# The Scottish Covenanters

The Killing Times (1660-1688)



# The Glorious Revolution

1688



# The Scots-Irish Presbyterian Revolt

1776

Obedience to a higher authority.



# **The Authority of Civil Disobedience**

The Sons of Issachar who had an understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do (1 Chronicles 12:32).



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