



Obey God Rather Than Man

After the Ascension, Peter and the Apostles boldly preached the good news of Jesus, drawing crowds hungry for healing and hope. Their witness angered the rulers, who arrested and imprisoned them to silence the gospel. But God sent His angel to free them, commanding them to return to the Temple and speak “all the words of this Life.” Released by God, they continued proclaiming Christ with courage, refusing to be silenced by earthly authority.

Their defiance was not rebellion for rebellion’s sake. It was faithful resistance—obedience to divine authority when human authority attempted to overstep its God-given bounds. The Apostles honored earthly rulers where they could, but they refused to surrender the proclamation of Christ, the worship of God, or the conscience bound to His Word.

So it remains today. God’s people do not resist government simply because they dislike its decrees. Christian disobedience is never rooted in pride or stubbornness; it is grounded in obedience to God. Civil government possesses legitimate, limited authority, but it is not ultimate. When the state issues rules or regulations that contradict God’s commands, we obey God, not man.

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty advocates for Religious Liberty.

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