

What Baptists Believe about Religious Liberty

In the same passage where Jesus reminds His disciples to render unto Caesar what is Caesar's, He also says that there are things which belong rightly to God, not Caesar (Matt. 22:15-22). **This is a reminder that God alone is Lord of the conscience, and the government should not interfere with the sincere religious convictions of individuals.** In the words of John Leland, Baptist preacher and religious liberty advocate, if the government won't answer for a person before the judgment seat of Christ, it should not interfere with an individual's religion in the present.

Baptists have historically held that though the conscience is not infallible, recognizing that it can be malformed because of sin's effects, it should be inviolable. When rightly normed by Scripture, individuals should live in accordance with conscience rather than do what they think to be sin (Rom. 14:1-12).

As a divine institution of God, Christians are to give obedience to government when it exercises its power justly within its sphere of authority. The command to give obedience to government is not a blessing of all the uses of government's power, but a submission to the authority established by God (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:14). Christians should resist commands from the government that call them to sin or reject the teachings of Christ.

However, in other instances, Christians should willingly submit to the authority instituted by God, availing themselves of all the rights of citizens for protest and redress of grievances. They should do so while also praying for all authorities and leaders to further promote justice and justly govern society (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

As the Baptist Faith & Message 2000 declares, "A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal."

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Lifeway™

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RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SUNDAY

**“GIVE THEN TO CAESAR THE THINGS
THAT ARE CAESAR'S, AND TO GOD
THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S.”**

MATTHEW 22:21 (CSB)



SAPPONY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Michael Dickey

July 7, 2024

www.sapponybaptist1773.org

Invocation and welcome

Hymn No. 52 "He Leadeth Me"

Hymn No. 53 "In His Time"

Missionary Prayer Calendar

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Hymn 54 "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Doxology

Scripture 2 Samuel 5:1-10

Message Rev. Mike Dickey

"The Lord God of Armies"

Hymn No. 287 "Take My Life, Lead Me, Lord"

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be in prayer for our sick and shut-ins as they are unable to be here with us.

The children will be collecting coloring books and notebooks for the month of July for The Shoe Box Ministry.

Monday, July 8th at 10:30am WOM will meet at the parsonage.

The packing of backpacks for West Virginia is on August 12th at 8am at the PBA. For more information contact Elinor Antis at 804-931-8939

PBA Mission Council meeting will be held on July 9th at 6:30pm at the Association Complex. Anyone interested in the mission work of the PBA is invited.

PBA Executive Council Meeting will be held July 15th at 7pm at Newville Baptist Church. Executive Council members need to attend. Others are invited to attend as guests.

Look for our daily devotional on our website www.sapponybaptist1773.com.

To subscribe to our text alerts, text "JOIN" to 804-430-6282. We send out prayer requests and reminders. Missed a sermon? Or just want to hear it again? Our past sermons are available on our website, Facebook, Youtube, and your favorite podcast app.

PRE-READ FOR NEXT WEEK: 2 Samuel 6:1-19