

Church and State (Tim Miller, Gateway Fellowship, June 19, 2016)

Romans 13:1-4 (NASB) Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. **3** For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; **4** for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

Matthew 5:43-48 (NLT) **43** “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. **44** But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! **45** In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. **46** If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. **47** If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. **48** But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

	Roman Catholic	Protestant	Anabaptist
Literally obey Jesus' commands?	✔	✘	✔
Apply Jesus' commands to the whole church?	✘	✔	✔
Consequences?	Split between “merely baptized” and “religious.” JV vs. Varsity Christians	A turd dipped in white paint.	Priesthood of all believers. Church/State Split

The State (CMC Statement of Theology)

The state is a provision of God for the administration of order and justice for the welfare of all people. The state is distinct from the church in purpose and cannot be expected to function by the ethics of Christ and the New Testament. Under God's provision, the state uses the sword, which "is ordained of God outside the perfection of Christ" and is a function contrary to the New Testament teachings for the church and the disciple of Christ.

Christians are to pray for and respect the state and its officials and obey in matters not violating obedience to Christ and His Word. The church is a witness to the state of God's righteousness and may cooperate with the state in matters of community and law where principles of love and righteousness are not violated, but may not be integrated with the state or succumb to a nationalism which essentially accords the state the status of a tribal god.

Rom. 13:1-7, Matt. 22:15-22, I Peter 2:13-15, Matt. 5:38-42, Matt. 26:52, John 18:36, Rom. 12:17-21, I Tim. 2:1-2, I Pet. 2:17, Titus 3:1, Acts 4:19, Acts 5:29, Acts 5:13, Acts 24-26