

Identify and Defend God's Will

Introduction

Opening Illustration –

1. God's institutions are to implement God's will.
 - a. Family
 - i. Christ is dividing the family? Matthew 10:34-37
 - ii. Christ is the head of the family. 1 Corinthians 11:3
 - b. Church's role. Matthew 28:19-20
 - i. Now, what institution is responsible for the teaching, implementing, and maintaining of Christ's view of marriage? That can only be the church. The church is the body of Christ followers. Therefore, the church as an institution is given authority to teach and raise up disciples to follow the commands and teachings of Christ (Matthew 28:19-20). This includes Christ's teachings about salvation as well as marriage, the state's authority, and even the proper understanding of the familial bond. So in the past, the church exercised its authority to preserve the teachings of Christ in marriage and instituted 'holy matrimony' to exercise authority over those who wanted a marriage that honors God through controlling how one could enter and how one must persevere in that marriage. Let us remember that it is not our own desires that make a marriage union but God's authority that makes it and when we break it, we dishonor Him more than any other person or institution.
2. Government is God's minister of justice.
 - a. There is no condemnation for those who walk in the Spirit. Romans 8:1-2, 6
 - b. We should obey human authority because:
 - i. Their authority comes from God. Romans 13:1-2
 - ii. They punish evil not good. Romans 13:3-4
 - iii. For the sake of our own conscience. Romans 13:5-7
3. The church submits to God's justice. Acts 5
 - a. God performs a miracle through Peter and James. Acts 4:13-17
 - b. Who should we obey? Acts 4:18-22
 - c. Prayer for boldness. Acts 4:23-31
 - d. We must obey God! Acts 5:26-32

Closing Illustration –

Closing Thought