

# ACTS

Authority is 100% necessary.  
Authority conflicts are 100% predictable

Acts 4-5 is a conflict of right AUTHORITY

Acts 4:19 "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God."

2 Legitimate Questions of Authority:

1. When is it right to defy authority? and how should you do it?
2. How do DUTY and conscience work through extend moral relationships?

For example, how do you handle Association and Enablement?

Christ's salvation reasserts God's Authority and rehabilitates our concept of duty

Reasserts God's Authority

State - Self

Rehabilitates Duty

State - Self

This is What it LOOKS Like



Daniel  
Obadiah

Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

Paul

Joseph

Peter and John

More places in acts- we'll talk about this more.

Problem to be solved or broken to be managed?

Acts 4:13-19

Example of "the show you, do them, reassert, which has become the case." (Paul's SALVATION REASSERTS GOD'S AUTHORITY)

When they saw the conversion of Peter and John and realized that they had turned to God, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

The image features a network diagram background with a teal border. The diagram consists of numerous small, colored circular nodes (in shades of teal, yellow, red, green, purple, and orange) connected by thin, grey lines. The nodes are arranged in a complex, interconnected pattern, with some nodes having multiple connections radiating from them. The word "ACTS" is prominently displayed in the center of the image in a large, bold, teal, sans-serif font.

# ACTS



Authority is 100% necessary.

Authority conflicts are 100% predictable

### Authority

We naturally want its benefits without its liabilities (at both ends):

**Submission**  
(Protection and provision without duty)

**Responsibility**  
(Power and privilege without duty)

That produces...  
**Distrust** → Tyranny  
→ Rebellion

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Rebellion

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Acts 4:19 "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.

## **2 Legitimate Questions of Authority:**

- 1. When is it right to defy authority? and how should you do it?**
- 2. How do DUTY and conscience work through extend moral relationships?**

For example, how do you factor

# Association and Enablement



(good small group discussion questions)

**Should a Christian be...**

- CEO of a pornographic development company?
- CEO of a magazine company that has 10% of its (pornographic) circulation distributed? What if it's 10%? What if it's 20%?
- Be a mailman knowing you're going to mail to a % of pornography or predatory 5' others?
- A driver who takes a customer to a "Tenderloin" club?

**Should a Christian be...**

- in the office of a politician who has to eliminate non-military targets who legal resources or knowledge of guilt?
- A Soldier not knowing who you might be called to kill or subvert?
- A Police officer knowing that there will be some weapons, equipment, in large systems of authority?

**Should a Christian be...**

- an editor for an anti-religious journal attacking all religious people?
- an editor for a non-Christian lifestyle magazine like "Self" or "Cosmo"?
- Be a type editor at a large secular publishing house?

**Should a Christian be...**

- working at a coffee shop or grocery that is not "fair trade"?
- working for a politically active business owner who attacks others?
- calling videos for sensationalist news?
- with leading or competing with too high a profit margin?

**Should a Christian be... Anything?**

- is there **ANY** **way** that does not have a moral hazard of **Association = Enablement**?
- 1 Corinthians 5:9-10  
I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— **do not at all** having the name of fellowship with people who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.

1 Kings 18:3

Ahab had summoned Obadiah, who was in charge of his palace. (Obadiah was a devout believer in the LORD...)

## Should a Christian be...

CEO of a pornographic development company?

CFO of a magazine company that has 10% of its operation is pornographic creation and distribution? what if it's 1%? What if it's 40%?

Be a mailman knowing you among your mail is a % of Pornography or predatory \$ 'offers'?

a driver who takes a customer to a "Gentlemen's" club?

## Should a Christian be...

a writer for an anti-religious journal attacking all religious people?

an editor for a non-Christian lifestyle magazine like "Self" or "Cosmo"?

be a type editor at a large secular publishing house?



## Should a Christian be...

a spy- a soldier that may have to eliminate non-military targets w/o legal recourse or knowledge of guilt?

a Soldier- not knowing who you might be called to kill or subdue?

a Police officer- knowing that there will be some 'systemic injustices" in large systems of authority?

## Should a Christian be...

on the staff of a non-truthful politician?

Teacher at a school that teaches a morally compromised and less than factual curriculum?

Be a bodyguard for someone who might deserve to be hurt?

Financial planner for someone that is a 'slum lord'?  
what about his builder?

Stay or stay silent in a class or major at university that attacks and undermines faith?

## Should a Christian be...

working at a coffee shop or grocer that is not 'fair trade'?

working for a politically active business owner who attacks others?

cutting video for sensationalist news?

web hosting for companies with 'too high a profit margin'?

# Should a Christian be... **Anything?**

Is there ANY vocation that does not have a moral hazard of **Association** or **Enablement** ?

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(Obadiah was a devout believer in the LORD...)

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and rehabilitates our concept of duty

# Reasserts God's Authority

Over State  
and Self

Acts 4:18-20

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

## A Few Months Earlier...

Matthew 26:73-75

After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away." Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

**When we obey the state in evil, we do it to save or enrich the self**

Luke 9:23 (Jesus to disciples):  
"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

This is  
What it  
Looks  
Like

"Do what God wants in everything"

can actually be paralyzing...  
if you think that means

Over

State

Like God in...

Least accountability  
and affords fewest escapes or alternatives

and

Self



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**"Do what God wants in everything"**

can actually be paralyzing...  
if you think that means:

"not having ***any connection*** of any kind with  
***anything bad.***"

How could you commit to ***anything*** without  
knowing ***everything?***

How could you commit to *anything* without knowing *everything*?

# Rehabilitates Duty

## 1 Peter 2:13-17

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

See also: Romans 13

"Honor the king...in the fear of God"

ie: submission to authority is it's own moral duty that must be factored into the equation of defiance and it has a VERY HIGH value.

Through the **State** and **Self**  
through duties to  
right authority

'steward' rather than 'accountant'

Matthew 24:45-47

"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

Steward: a REAL LIFE manager/investor

Do the best you can in your roles and duties to invest God's gifts for HIS purposes. This is going to be a dirty process.

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## **'steward' rather than 'accountant'**

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Paul



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Problem to be solved  
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tension to be managed?

## Acts 4:11-13

[Jesus] is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone. ' (Psalm 118:22) Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.



The image features a network diagram with various colored nodes (red, yellow, teal, green, purple, orange) connected by thin grey lines. The nodes are arranged in a complex, interconnected pattern across the entire frame. In the center of this network, the word "ACTS" is written in a large, bold, teal-colored font. The entire composition is enclosed within a dark teal rectangular border.

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