

Civil Disobedience – Handout One

- **A Definition of Civil Disobedience** – “The active, professed refusal of a citizen to obey certain laws of the states, and/or demands, orders, and commands of a government.”
- **New Testament “Teaching” Passages Regarding Civil Governments** – Romans 13:1-7, I Timothy 2:1-3, I Peter 2:13-17
 1. **What do these passages teach us about the establishment of civil governments in general and about the appointment of particular government officials?**
 2. **What do these passages teach us about the responsibilities of civil governments to their citizens?**
 3. **What do these passages teach us about the responsibilities of citizens to their civil governments?**
 4. **What do these passages teach us about civil disobedience?**

- **A summary of These Teachings** – Westminster Confession of Faith – Chapter 23 (especially paragraphs 1 and 4)

- **Two Conclusions from Today’s Lesson**

1. The d_____ portions of the N_____ T_____ teach us that God o_____ civil governments and c_____ g_____ and specifies the duties and responsibilities of the g_____ and the g_____. There is no d_____ t_____ from these passages on how and when to practice c_____. d_____ if governments do not follow their Biblically-mandated r_____.

2. This does not mean that the Bible is s_____ on the issue before us or that the Bible f_____ civil disobedience. It does mean that we must f_____ Biblical p_____ from specific e_____ of those who practiced civil obedience in n_____ from the Bible. We then must a_____ these principles to s_____ situations that Christians have faced in h_____ or currently face in our s_____ to determine if civil obedience is w_____.