

Separation of Church and State

BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES

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The church functions independently from civil government.

- I. Scripture depicts formal separation between church and _____.
- A. The government may not impose _____ concerning matters of conscience (Acts 4:19, 5:29).
- B. The church should not _____ on authorization or privileges from the state (Acts 16:16-40).
- II. Scripture encourages _____ exchange between church and state.
- A. The _____ upholds the free exercise of religion (Acts 18:12-16, 23:6, 26:31).
- B. The _____ influences government informally (Phil. 1:12-13, 1 Tim. 2:1-2).
- III. Scripture expects _____ obedience from the church to the state.
- A. _____ civil law (Rom. 13:1, Tit. 3:1, 1 Pet. 2:13).
- B. _____ government officials (Acts 26:25, 1 Pet. 2:17).
- C. _____ taxes (Mk. 12:17, Rom. 13:6-7).

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Are you prepared to obey God if state law forbids you?
- Do you obey government in all of the ways that God expects?
- How can you allow this truth to affect your life this week?