



Protesting





## Nero, A.D. 54-68

- 5<sup>th</sup> Emperor
- Started good
- Killed mother and wives
- Rome Fire, A.D. 64
- Persecuted Christians





Even Nero?

## Even Nero?

“Remember, in Peter’s day...a percentage of taxes Christians paid supported the construction of pagan temples and funded unjust wars. And don’t forget – the insane dictator, Nero, was notoriously cruel toward Christians...Shouldn’t they refuse to pay taxes that support such an oppressive regime? Or maybe take up arms and resist a government with such a leader? Peter said no. Nowhere in Scripture are revolt and anarchy promoted.”

Chuck Swindoll, Swindoll’s Living Insights NT Commentary: 1 Peter





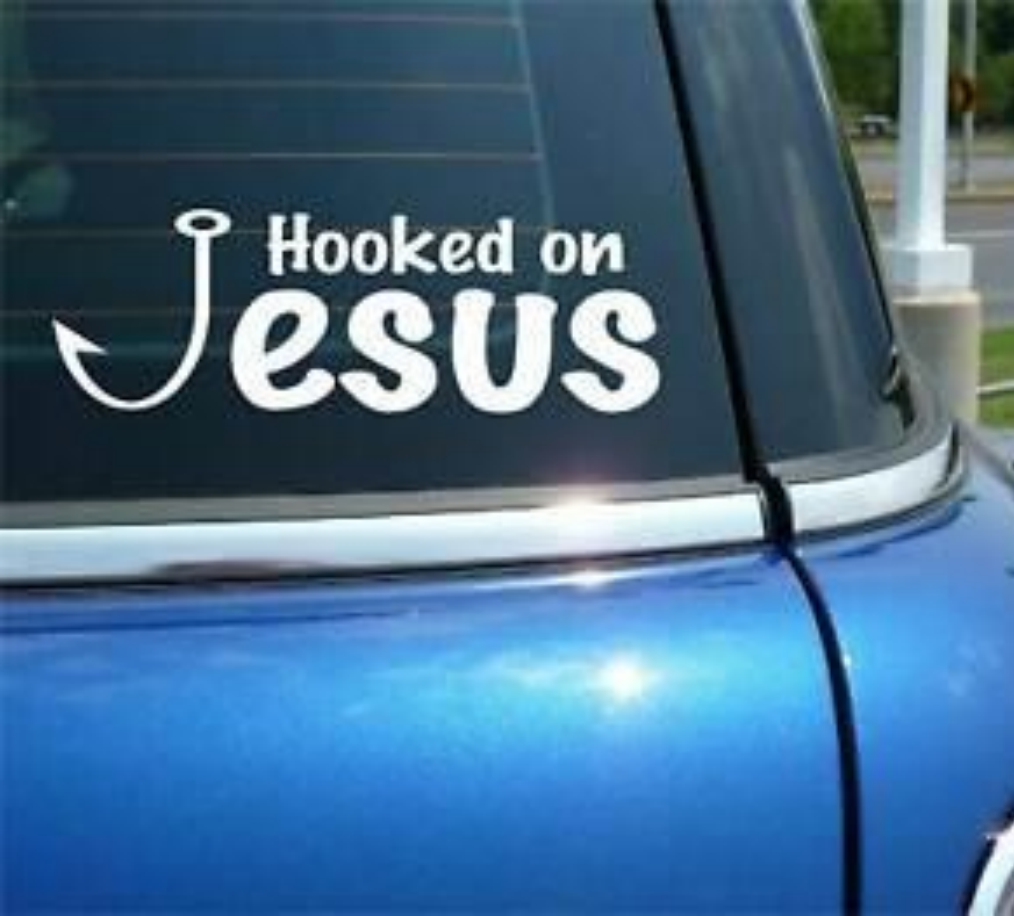
# ALIEN

Living in a Chaotic World

1 PETER

I am an ambassador of the kingdom  
of God clothed in His immense  
power!





Bumper Sticker Hypocrisy



# Alien Living in a Chaotic World

Ambassadors for Jesus represent Him in this chaotic world by:

1. Living with integrity within ourselves.
2. Living with integrity within the world.





# Difficult Social Spheres

1. Submitting to governing authorities
2. Working for mean masters.
3. Loving spouses in difficult marriages.
4. Getting along with others



# “Submit”

Hupotasso

ὑποτάσσω

Hupo – UNDER + Tasso – PLACE

“To arrange under, subordinate. In non-military use, it was "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden.”

Theological Dictionary of the New Testament





# Obey Governing Authorities

“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.”

Romans 13:1-2



# God Sovereign Over Authorities

“Then Daniel praised the God of heaven and said:  
“Praise be to the name of God for ever and  
ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times  
and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the  
discerning.”

Daniel 2:19-21





# Jonathan Edwards' Theology of Public Life

1. Christians have a responsibility to society beyond the walls of the church.
2. Christians should not hesitate to join forces with non-Christians in the public square toward common moral goals.
3. Christians should support their governments but be ready to criticize them when necessary.
4. Christians should remember that politics is comparatively unimportant in the long run.
5. Christians should beware of national pride.
6. Christians should care for the poor.

# Freed to Serve

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.”

Galatians 5:13





Martin Luther



A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject of all, subject to all.

AZ QUOTES









“No matter what the provocation, they (believers) must not lose respect for their fellow citizens or forget the common humanity they all share.”

J. Ramsey Michaels, Word Biblical Commentary: 1 Peter

# Biblical Examples of Civil Disobedience

- Hebrew Midwives and Moses' Parents (Exodus 1)
- Rahab (Joshua 2)
- Esther (Esther 4)
- Daniel and His Friends (Daniel 3,6)
- Peter and John (Acts 5)





# 5 Principles for Godly Disobedience from Acts 5

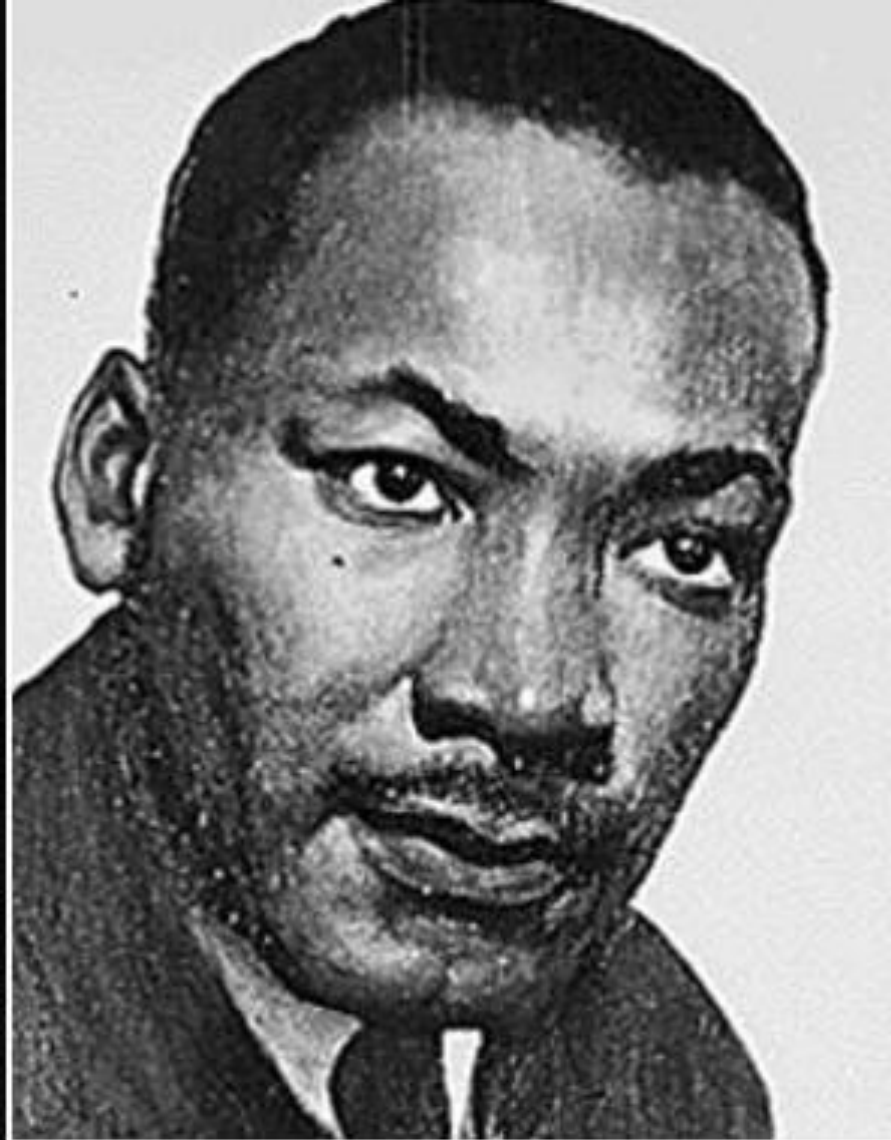
1. You need to have a clear command of God.
2. Address civil authorities with respect.
3. Do not resist arrest.
4. Punishments must be accepted.
5. The forbidden action should not cease after initial censure and punishment.

Paul Carter, "A Few Principles on Civil Disobedience,"

[www.gospelcoalition.org](http://www.gospelcoalition.org)



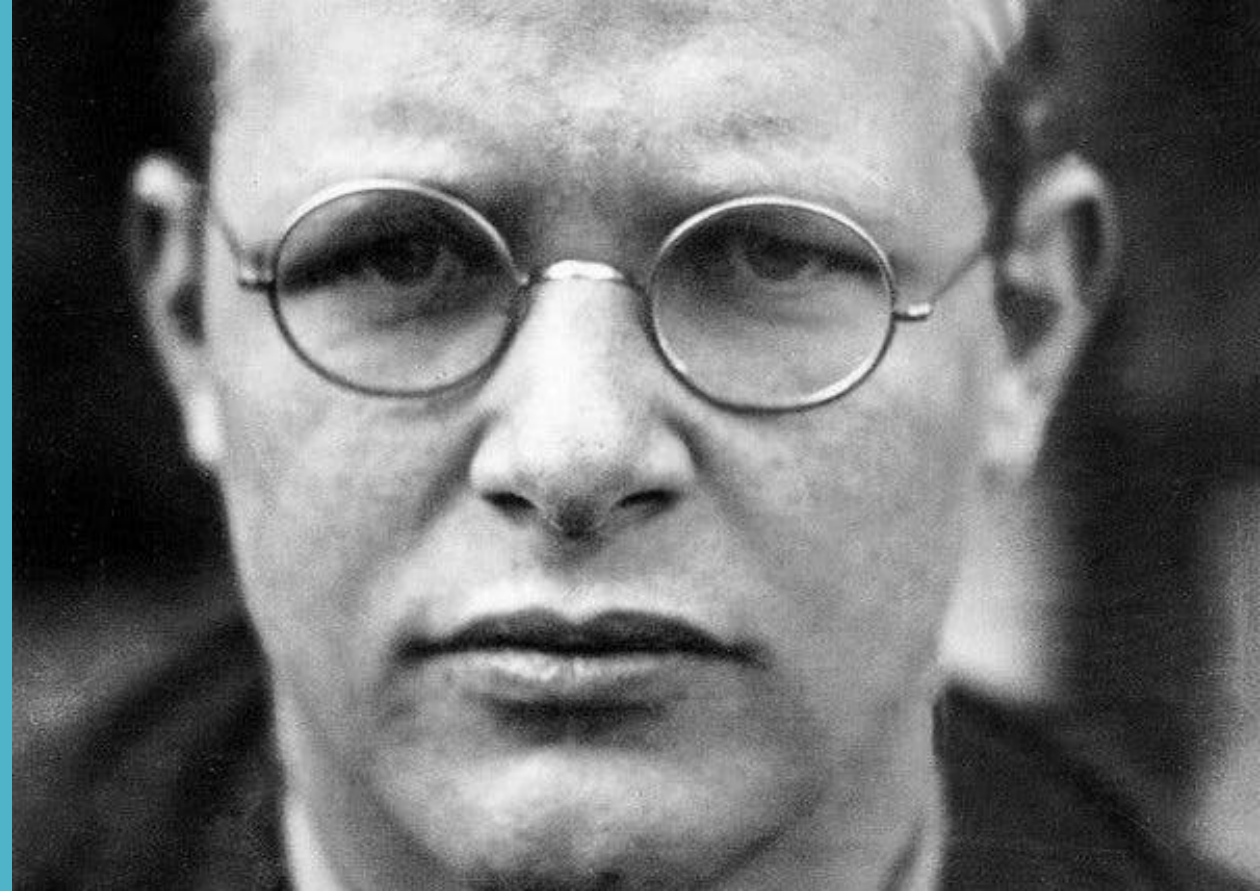




An individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law.

— *Martin Luther King* —

**AZ QUOTES**

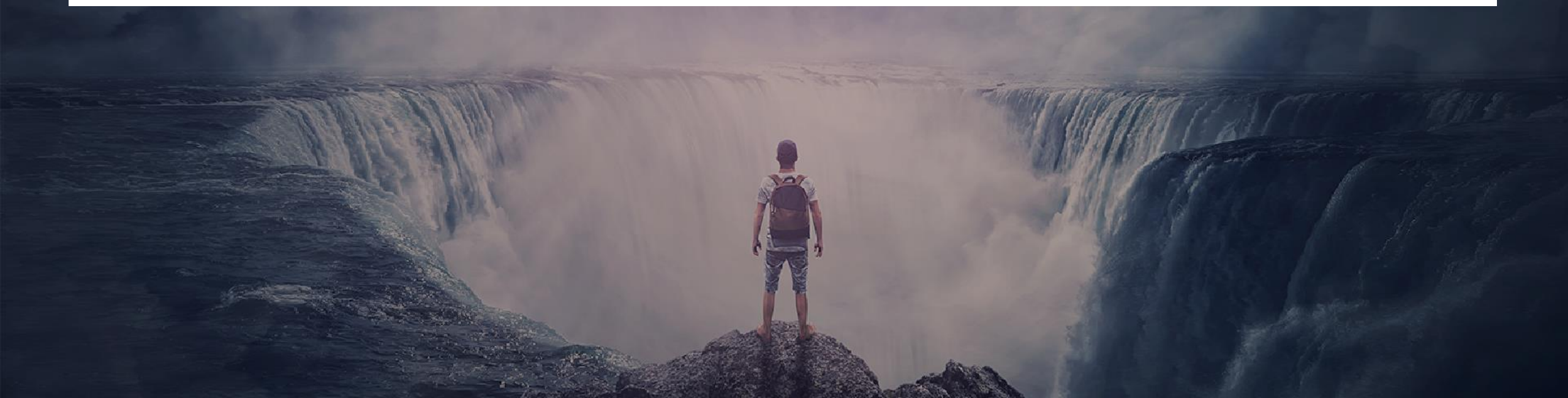


Rebel or Not to Rebel?

# Christian Responsibility toward Government

“Christians are to cooperate with their government whenever possible, challenge their government whenever necessary, and pray for their government at all times.”

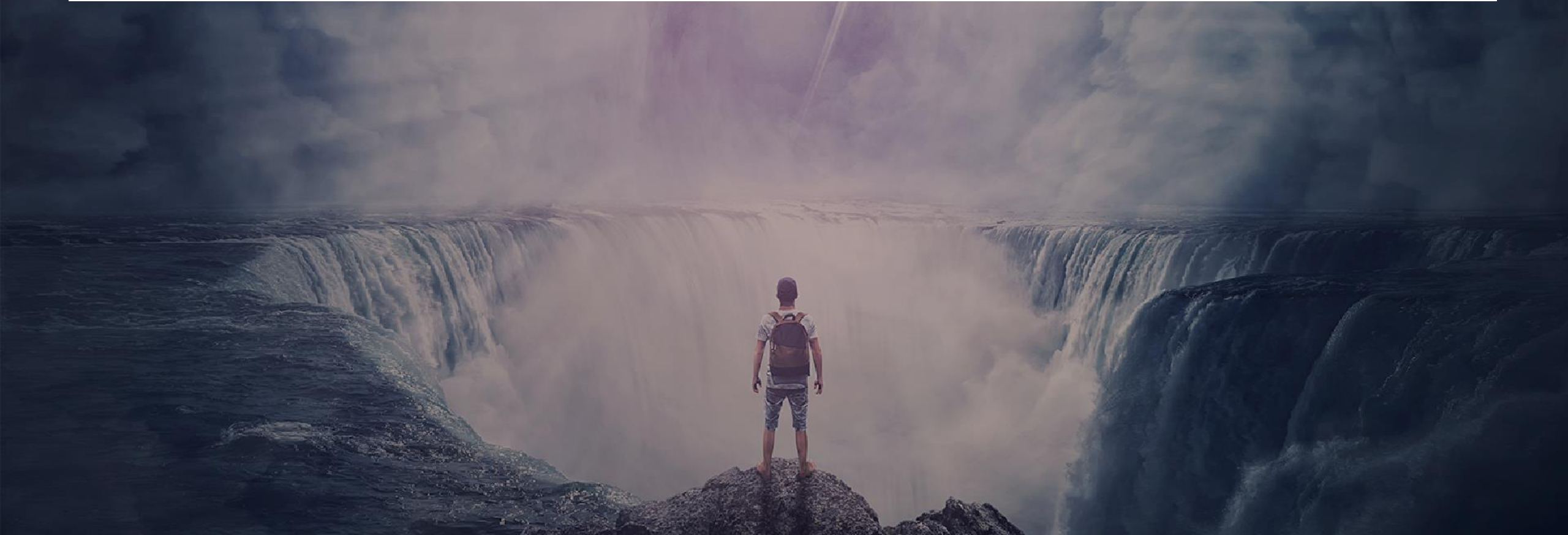
Bryan Wilkerson, “Thinking Biblically About Government”





# Christian Responsibility toward Government

- Cooperate – Helping Ukraine Refugees
- Challenge – Pro-Life Rally
- Pray – National Day of Prayer, May 5





**You Have  
the Power to  
Choose Life**

teii.org

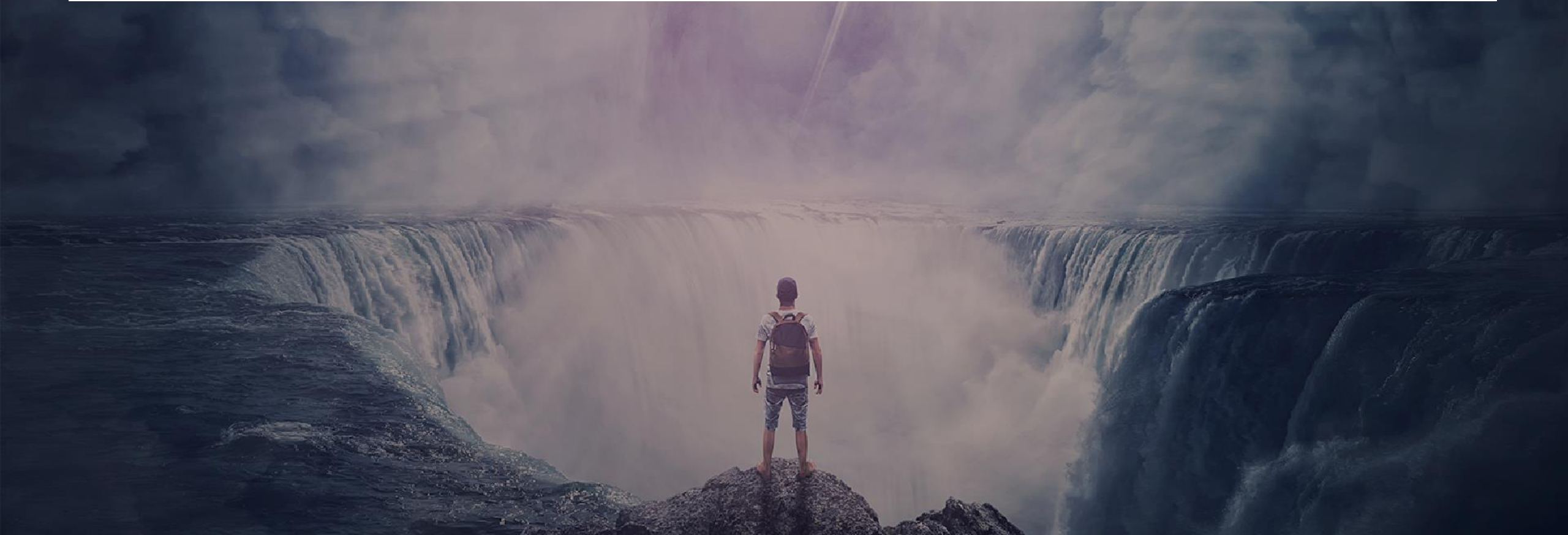
**You Have  
the Power to  
Choose Life**





# Christian Responsibility toward Government

- Cooperate – Helping Ukraine Refugees
- Challenge – Pro-Life Rally
- Pray – National Day of Prayer, May 5





## Pray for Authorities

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

1 Timothy 2:1-4



## Even Nero!

“I think it's fair to ask...Are the political attitudes of Christians toward government so positive and respectful that other people admire us for it? I'm afraid that's not always the case...Wouldn't it be great for Christians to lead the way in cleaning up the toxic political atmosphere in our culture!”

Bryan Wilkerson, “Thinking Biblically About Government”

