



The Framers were not _____, ignoring _____ governmental authority & spoiling for a _____

They did not want to _____ from England – their “_____ country”

They believed they had _____ all options for a peaceful solution

Therefore, they believed they had a _____ and a _____ to stand against tyranny

Elizur Goodrich, CT Congregational Pastor, 1787: “When a constitutional government is converted into tyranny, and the laws, rights and properties of a free people are openly invaded, there ought not to be the least doubt but that a remedy is provided in the laws of God and reason, for their preservation; nor ought resistance in such case to be called rebellion.”

Joseph Lathrop, Pastor, 1st Congregational Church, West Springfield, MA, Dec 14, 1787: “Is there no case in which a people may resist government?’ Yes, that is, when rulers usurp a power oppressive to the people, ... in contempt of every respectful remonstrance. In this case the body of the people have a natural right to unite their strength for the restoration of their own constitutional government.”

1. Submission & cooperation are not always the _____

2. The issue is not submission, but _____ submission

Rev Jonathan Mayhew, 1749-50: “No government is to be submitted to at the expense of the sole end of all government ... The only reason of the institution of civil government and the only rational ground of submission to it is the common safety and utility. If therefore, in any case, the common safety and utility would not be promoted by submission to government, but the contrary, there is no ground or motive for obedience and submission, but for the contrary.

Rev Samuel West to the MA legislature, 1776: “A slavish submission to tyranny is proof of a very sordid and base mind. ... all good magistrates, while they faithfully discharge the trust reposed in them, ought to be religiously and conscientiously obeyed. ... if magistrates are no farther ministers of God than they

promote the good of the community, then obedience to them neither is nor can be unlimited; ... for it would imply a gross absurdity to assert that, when magistrates are ordained by the people solely for the purpose of being beneficial to the state, they must be obeyed when they are seeking to ruin and destroy it. ... Unlimited submission is due to none but God alone. ... Whenever the ruler encourages them that do evil, and is a terror to those that do well, ... he becomes a tyrant, he forfeits his authority to govern, and becomes the minister of Satan, and as such, ought to be opposed."

3. Paul _____ teach unlimited submission in Rom 13

- Just as the Black Robe preachers and MLK emphasized, Paul is referring to a _____ government – not a _____ one.

Paul defines a biblically *proper* government as:

- One that acts as God's minister for _____. (13:4)
 - One that _____ the _____ guys. (13:3-4)
 - One that _____ the _____ guys. (13:3)
- Interestingly, we don't read *unlimited* submission into Paul's _____ dealing with submission:
 - We do not use _____ to teach that _____ owe *unlimited* submission to their _____
 - We do not use _____ to teach that _____ owe *unlimited* submission to their _____
 - We do not use _____ to teach that _____ owe *unlimited* submission to their _____

4. The founding preachers _____ preach *unlimited* submission

Rev Jonathan Mayhew, 1749-50: "Common tyrants and public oppressors are not entitled to obedience from their subjects by virtue of anything here [Rom 13] laid down by the inspired apostle [Paul]. ... For a nation thus abused to arise unanimously and resist their prince, even to dethroning him, is not criminal, but a reasonable way of vindicating their liberties and just rights: it is making use of the only means, which God has put into their power for mutual and self-defense. And it would be highly criminal in them not to make use of this means. It would be stupid tameness and unaccountable folly for whole nations to suffer one unreasonable, ambitious, and cruel man to wanton and riot in their misery."