

Ruled by Law or by Men?

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Only two kinds of civil government exist: The rule of law or the rule of men. When law prevails (even bad law), all are treated equally because law is **objective** and plays no favorites. Each citizen can plan his life predictably by the limits and freedoms the law prescribes. Peace, security, and prosperity abound when law prevails.

When men rule, they **use** the law only when it favors their cause or when it rewards their friends and/or punishes their enemies. The rule of men is **subjective**, ruling arbitrarily according to opinion, ideology, favoritism, and other factors, but ignoring law otherwise. When men rule, dictators thrive, and citizens live in turmoil, anxiety, and poverty, fearing the next whim of the tyrant.

Only two kinds of authority exist in religion: The law of God versus the opinions and whims of men. Jesus made this point when he asked the religious leaders if John's baptism were "from heaven or from men" (Mat. 21:25). Every religious group, doctrine, and practice derives its authority from one or the other of these law sources/systems.

God revealed His law to chosen, inspired men, preserving it in the Bible (particularly the New Testament for all who have lived since Jesus died on the cross [Eph. 2:14–16; Col. 2:14; Heb. 9:16–17; 10:9, et al.]). His law is **objective**, independent of the ignorance, opinions, whims, and ill motives of fallible men. Since "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10: 34), His law applies to all men equally. The Bible reveals to us both the limits and freedoms of God's will. As God is immutable (Heb. 13:8; Jam. 1:17), so is His law (Gal. 1:6–9; Rev. 22:18–19). He has given all authority to His Son (Mat. 28:18; Heb. 1:1–2), Whose words will judge us at last (John 12:48). Spiritual peace, security, and prosperity belong only to those who submit to Divine law.

Lamentably, the vast majority of mankind has chosen to let **men** rule them in religion. All of the so-called "great world religions" (except genuine Christianity) are from men rather than from Heaven. Man-founded religions reflect their founders' superstitions, ignorance, avarice, opinions – and sometimes – raw sensuality and power-lust (viz., Islam). Further, most professed "Christianity" has the same source, with confused names, practices, creeds, and purposes – bowing low to human rule rather than to Divine law. Human rule in religion is **subjective**, mutable, and arbitrary, even as it is in civil societies ruled by men.

God allows men to determine whether they will submit to His law or to the rule of men in religion, all the while inviting them to submit to the Divine will. All who reject Jesus' law in this life must still answer to it at The Judgment (John 12:48).

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