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It is appropriate for Christians to resist their government when the instruction goes against God's laws, clearly laid out in the Bible. The Bible is the ultimate truth, the ultimate guideline for morality. Without this unchanging foundation given to us by God, there is no standard for morality. America would not be what it is today if it was not built upon these principles. In Matthew 10:28, Jesus says: "Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

The Battle of Lexington and Concord demonstrates a time when the colonists could not trust their government to treat them as equal citizens of Britain. This, in and of itself, defies God's plans for humanity. "There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28 NLT). The colonists started losing their rights quickly and were forced to pay heavy taxes to pay off Britain's war debt gained in the French and Indian War. The colonists had tried to restore friendship with Britain so passionately, that a letter sent to the king was known as the Olive Branch Petition. They initially tried to respect Britain's authority by remaining loyal and requesting the repeal of the Intolerable Acts. However, Britain was determined to force the "rebellious" colonists to submit, which ended up causing the conflict.

The results of these circumstances explain the colonists' position when the Declaration of Independence was later written. "When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation." This belief drove them to Biblically disobey civil authorities. They understood that the "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God" far exceeded any law of a King or worldly authority.

We, as Christians, have a choice when we are faced with unjust laws. Some Christians believe that we are to be meek and humble, and this means staying quiet when they see injustice around them. Some even call this "love." Meekness, however, does not mean weakness. Meekness models the humility of Jesus, however, many times throughout scripture Jesus took intentional action to go against injustice, including turning the tables in the Temple (Matthew 21:12-13) and telling His own disciples, "...And if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one!" (Luke 22:36) Jesus wants us to be prepared to defend ourselves and others against injustice, but he wants us to be responsible with this freedom. He shows us in Proverbs that we need a balance of everything. "Do you like honey? Don't eat too much or it will make you sick!" (Proverbs 25:16). He also shows us this in Ecclesiastes when he says: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). The Bible teaches us that there is a balance and wisdom needed for all of life's decisions. As Christians, we need to know the truth in order to be both meek and courageous. We should not kill people just because we disagree, but we need to be ready to defend our God-given rights when we are faced with unjust laws.

The first form of defense is prayer. We can pray for our leaders before they make decisions and after unjust decisions are made. “The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the Lord, He guides it wherever He pleases” (Proverbs 21:1 NLT).

If I had lived at the time of the events of Lexington and Concord, I would have protested against the British. My motivation for resistance would need to be out of love, not hatred, seeking justice and mercy for myself and others. “...the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8 NLT). Britain was forcing the colonists to pay heavy taxes. The colonists were not only being treated unfairly, they were also without representation in the English Parliament. This is why their well-known belief, “No taxation without representation” became a founding principle in our country. In spite of the colonists’ continued attempts to make peace, the British continued to treat them as if they were inferior to the citizens of England. The British were trying to regain their power, but they did it so quickly and forcefully that it made the colonists angry. They could not stand for this injustice any longer and the skirmish at Lexington and Concord was the final breaking point. They used this “righteous” anger to fight for the good of an entire nation and this began the American Revolution. I think it was unreasonable of England to be so stubborn and so simultaneously unprepared for another war. It is clear, however, the colonists were led by God in this resistance. He walked alongside them in battle, as leaders like George Washington continually sought His provision and direction. I would not have stood for this injustice if I had lived at this time, and I would fight to my death to gain and preserve freedom for my generation and generations to come. I agree with Patrick Henry, “Give me liberty, or give me death”.

These are some examples of times throughout history when it was Biblically appropriate for Christians to resist their government. America’s founding fathers knew from experience how corrupt a government could become, and they did not want their new country’s government to repeat what had happened in the past. They were very intelligent people who wanted a lasting and prosperous country for future generations to live in. They knew the only way this had a chance of being successful was by fearing God and being willing to defend and keep it.