
STEPPINGSTONES
SCHOLARSHIP



ISABELLA
2026 RUNNER-UP

The Constant War

There isn't just a war across the globe; it's across the history of humanity's heart, and it has lasted a thousand years. Insidiously, silently, and snakingly is how sin's rebellion constantly creeps upon us. For most of human history, the constant challenge has been to know when to stop pushing the walls of laws and boundaries. However, as Christians, we can easily recognize that rebellion has been in our nature since the infamous event at the garden of Eden and act accordingly in submission to God. Since Christians are commanded to follow God's will, we understand that it is required to obey Him above all other laws and principalities; and like us, the American soldiers in the Battle of Lexington and Concord showed that their allegiance was ultimately to the everlasting crown of heaven.

Seeing as how the Bible's core principles are made to outlast governments, money, and people, it seems only sensible for me to take the same side as the thirteen colonies when they launched their first shots against the British army in the Battle of Lexington and Concord. At the time, many patriots were led to conclude that their British masters acted more as overlords than as godly magistrates because of the Boston Massacre of 1770 and especially the "intolerable" Quartering Act of 1774 ("Christian Patriots"). Therefore, by the early spring of 1775, the thirteen colonies resolved to protect themselves against the oppressive British government by arming themselves in the form of minutemen and a blossoming militia (James and Stoff 158). Their choice was the product of their belief in protecting their God-given rights, such as life, liberty, and the ability to worship freely. Additionally, as God calls Christians and all His followers to fight against evil and protect what is virtuous, it only becomes clearer that the colonists' civil disobedience was a deliberate choice to obey God over human authority. As stated in Ephesians 6:10-11 (NIV), "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." Because the American soldiers of Lexington and Concord were protecting what God had given them, fighting against greed and tyranny that opposed Biblical values, it would only be logical to accept that at times, it is right to rebel against earthly authorities when they prove to be unworthy. Thus said, just like how the American soldiers rebelled against Britain, who was not aligned with God's core principles, Christians are also able to disobey earthly authorities if it conflicts with one's obedience to God. For Christians living in a modern society, we should respond to unjust laws by prayer, peaceful protest, and voting. Nevertheless, Christians should always keep in mind that God is the one ultimately deserving of your obedience and ultimately in control of everything, for "He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning." (Daniel 2:21 NIV)

Although rebellion can sound appealing due to our sinful nature, social media, and modern literature, Christians should continue to be aware that civil disobedience should only be done when earthly authorities require the denial of Christians' obedience to God and His core values. By protecting their gifts of liberty, life, and freedom of religion from Britain, the American soldiers in the Battle of Lexington and Concord demonstrated a precedent for Christians to follow: that when other things of this

world stand in our way of following God, it is only right to resist, whether one has to do so aggressively or gently. To properly do this, Christians need to lock their spiritual eyes on God. In Colossians 3:2 (NIV), the apostle Paul says, “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” Therefore, when ultimately following God’s will, civil disobedience can be done for good. It all comes down to this: who are you truly following?

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