
STEPPINGSTONES
SCHOLARSHIP



JACK
2026 RUNNER-UP

The Law of Love

Throughout history God has called his people to act according to His absolute standards of love: to love God first and our neighbor second.

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:36-40

Every law should support these two ultimate laws. Any law that is contrary to these is unjust and should be resisted. It sounds so simple, but it is actually complex because we have to assess and examine the intent behind the law.

For the resistance at Lexington and Concord, we see the people likely had a myriad of reasons for pushing back against British rule. Some were probably simply trying to save their families, their property, their way of life, and the freedoms they had enjoyed when out of British reach. Some were assuredly compelled to resist on the basis of religious convictions that the Church of England was corrupt and used as a tool by the King to control and oppress the freedom Christ brings.

The people of God have had to disobey unjust laws throughout history. From Daniel and his friends resisting an ungodly king’s call to worship his statue to Martin Luther King Jr peacefully protesting unjust laws that supported oppression and devaluing of humans created in God’s image, there are times to civilly disobey in order to bring human laws back into alignment with God’s Law of Love.

We have been given God’s Law of Love in order to enjoy the freedom Christ died for: freedom from sin and death of relationships with God and people. “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” Galatians 5:1 For we have been redeemed, and there is no going back into any kind of slavery.

Before the American Revolution began, British rule abused authority in the name of Christ to build their indomitable empire, not to spread the Law of Love or the freedom of Christ. The decrees were selfish and enslaving, oppressive and destructive, and therefore worthy of rebelling against. When we recognize injustices, we are called to stand up for the Law of Love even when it means disobeying ungodly laws.

The call to protect family and friends carried by figures like Paul Revere and answered by ordinary brave citizens, is the call I hope to have the courage to answer if called upon some day.