

# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16*

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## **IS IT SCRIPTURAL FOR A CHURCH TO HAVE AND CELEBRATE A LAW ENFORCEMENT HONOR DAY?**

A few years ago, one of the churches in our area celebrated what was advertised as a **LAW ENFORCEMENT HONOR DAY**. The purpose of this celebration was to honor law enforcement officers. Too many, no doubt, this was a patriotic thing to do. However, my first reaction to it was one of concern as to whether or not such a practice is Scriptural. In view of the fact that we must do all that we **"in the name of the Lord Jesus"**, it is certainly in order for us to raise and discuss the question: **Is it Scriptural for a church (as a collectivity, an assembly or group) to have a LAW ENFORCEMENT HONOR DAY?** A consideration of the following observations should help us to reach the proper answer to the question.

1. A study of Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-17 and 1 Tim. 2:1-2 should convince every Christian that God ordained civil government for the protection and benefit of the citizens of a country and for the punishment of evil doers. Christians have the responsibilities of being subject to civil rulers, paying taxes, rendering fear (respect) and honor and praying for civil rulers.

2. There is **NO PRECEPT** (command or statement), **APPROVED EXAMPLE** or **NECESSARY IMPLICATION** in the **Scriptures** that **authorizes** a **CHURCH** (as an assembly or collectivity) to honor civil officers by setting a **LAW ENFORCEMENT HONOR DAY** and celebrating it!

3. The **CHURCH** (as an assembly or collectivity) is **authorized** to engage in **evangelism** (preaching and teaching the truth), **edification** (this would include assembly worship) and **relief work of caring for needy saints!** (See 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Thess. 1:8; Phil. 4:14-17; 2 Cor. 11:8; Eph. 4:12; 1 Tim. 5:16; Acts 6:1-7; 11:27-30; 1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8 & 9 and Romans 15:25-26).

4. The fact that we (as Christians) are to honor our parents (cf. Eph. 6:1-4) **does not authorize** the **CHURCH** (as an assembly) to have and celebrate a **PARENTAL HONOR DAY!**

5. The fact that we (as Christians) are to **"honor the king"** (**1 Pet. 2:17**) **does not authorize the CHURCH (as a collectivity)** to have and celebrate a **CIVIL RULER HONOR DAY!**

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## IS IT SCRIPTURAL FOR A CHURCH TO HAVE AND CELEBRATE A LAW ENFORCEMENT HONOR DAY?

6. The fact that husbands are to honor their wives (cf. 1 Pet. 3:7) **does not authorize** the CHURCH (as an assembly) to have a WIVES' HONOR DAY?

7. The fact that elders that rule well are to be counted worthy or double honor (cf. 1 Tim. 5:17) **does not authorize** the CHURCH (as a collectivity) to have and celebrate an ELDERS' HONOR DAY!

8. The fact that we (as Christians) are to **"honor all men"** (cf. 1 Peter 2:17) **does not authorize** the CHURCH (as an assembly) to have and celebrate an ALL MEN HONOR DAY!

9. A careful consideration of the following passages should help us understand that as Christians we **dare not lead nor encourage** a CHURCH to engage in **unauthorized** activities: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3; James 1:25; 2 John 9-11; Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 4:6; Romans 10:17; Ephesians 5:10; 1 Peter 4:11 and James 2:12. NOTE: Neither should we follow a **church** that so acts!

NO, it is **not Scriptural for a CHURCH (as a collectivity, assembly or group) to have and celebrate a LAW ENFORCEMENT HONOR DAY!**

Let each one of us determine that we will abide within the doctrine of Christ!

(CRS)

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## - SENTENCE SERMONS -

To be genuinely happy, you must **give, forgive and be forgiven.**

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Everything that is really worth while is **up grade!**

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A small house can hold as much happiness as a big one!

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Jesus proved that a sinless life can be lived in a sinful world!

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It really matters not **how LONG** we live, but **HOW** we live!

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