<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Kingdom on the Left/Human Affairs</th>
<th>The Kingdom on the Right/Spiritual Kingdom</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Based in an anthropological or human construct</td>
<td>• Based in a spiritual construct</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Possesses various divine institutions</td>
<td>• Possesses or is its own, singular, divine institution</td>
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<td>• Self</td>
<td>• The church</td>
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<td>• Marriage</td>
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<td>• Family</td>
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<td>• Establishmentarianism (Government/Nationalism)</td>
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The Theocracy of Israel
The Theocracy of Israel

As a divine institution the Theocracy of Israel is unique. Unlike the kingdoms which Luther identified, with the kingdom on the left pertaining to human government and that on the right pertaining to the spiritual affairs of men, the Theocracy of Israel was both an earthly and a spiritual kingdom which were combined into a singular government.

As we discover, starting in Genesis 12, God calls out Abraham with the promise of establishing a people of his own, (immediately and eternally) genetically, spiritually and geographically. Then, through Moses, the Israelites are delivered to the land promised to Abraham along with a complex code of civic, moral and ceremonial or religious laws.
They are led directly by God himself, as their king, by way of direct revelation. They are to abide by what has been revealed and adjust to any additional revelation.

But as the Bible records, the Hebrews envied the other nations and rejected God as their king and desired, instead, a human king which God obliged them.

**Governmental Authority Structure of the Theocracy of Israel:**

Civic Rule – via Monarchy

Spiritual Rule – via Levitical Priesthood
Purpose (Here are a handful):

- Establish God’s Kingdom on Earth (Genesis 12-22) which set the context of the Messiah to come
- Micah 5:2 – Born in Bethlehem
- Isaiah 7:14 – Born of a virgin
- Genesis 49:10 – Tribe of Judah
- 2 Samuel 7: 12-13 Heir to David’s Throne

Duration:
Temporal and Eternal

However, with that said, there is a great deal of debate among various Christian denominations and sects as to precisely how the Bible presents the eternal nature of Israel. We are not here to examine that thus, those considerations will not be reviewed. However, suffice it to say that while many theological disagreements exist in sub-categories on this matter, most all Christian theologians share the consensus that the Kingdom of Israel is eternal in Christ.
Establishmentarianism: The Divine Institution of Establishment or Government

The Divine Institution of Establishmentarianism or Tribal, State and National Government

When more than one family decides upon an alliance in which common property is possessed and regulated for the benefit of multiple families, this is called the establishment of a state or a state government. In this case, it on a tribal level.

Most of the time tribal levels are established on the basis of shared genetics, geography, language and values but not necessarily so.
God’s Word clearly accepts the concept of the establishment of a cooperative state of being on the level of tribes or clans, in the form of towns and cities, and of states and of nations.

Acts 17:26
And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation.

What is normally shared in all of these are values, language and borders and historically genetics but in recent history that property is less prominent in first world or advanced nations who adhere to an ideology first and foremost. This has not be and is not, without many challenges.

Ultimately, states of being or states/nations will have a recognized form of government, i.e., an authority structure. All members of this larger society agree to be subject to this established government in order to build a context for the prosperity, protection and perpetuity of its people.
(From Spokane Bible Church)

Divine establishment for civilization is God’s (divine) set of rules (establishment) that apply within each divine institution and to all the areas of society and to all people in order to make and keep a society and civilization free, strong, productive, and enduring.

These include 1) authority; 2) liberty which includes privacy and personal responsibility; 3) morality and justice; 4) internal and external security; 5) free economy which includes the ownership of private property, the right to accumulate wealth, the right to pass on your wealth to your heirs, and proper taxation; and 6) helpfulness to your neighbor. Divine establishment for civilizations is the subject of many Scriptures (Matthew 22.21; Romans 13.1-10; 1 Timothy 2.1-3; 1 Peter 2.13-17; Proverbs 3.27-35; Proverbs 13.22; Proverbs 20.18; and Proverbs 24.21-22 are a few examples).
A couple passages for expanded consideration:

Revelation 7:9: After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;

Romans 13:1-10

13 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.
Romans 13:1-10

5 Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience’ sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. 7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Question: What is the context of these statement and these commands?

While it is disputable as to what is and is not legal, and while men/women have the right to object to governments which they believe to be unlawful, both before God and man thus, they are not obliged obedience, it is imperative that the believer understand this is generally an exception to the rule. Remember, in writing this Paul is living under the rule of the Roman Empire. What existed in their republic was quite exceptional with regard to the savagery and undeveloped nations around them (and some within them).
However, were this form of government to exist today, you would have throngs of Christians not only protesting but outright publicly damning its leaders and its civil servants and a government of sinfulfulness which they are not obliged to obey.

What the Christian church has become misguided in is the matter of civil rights verses Biblical rights.

And because we will not have time to fully study the doctrine of divine establishment or establishmentarianism in regard to nations, I have chosen to focus on this dimension for the remainder of my coverage of this portion of the topic because civic rights is a hot issue which, too often, has been dealt with incorrectly by both the non-Christian population and the Christian church with respect to what the Bible states or does not state on the matter.
I will deal with this topic by asking a two thought provoking questions:

• Should all citizens of a state/nation, have the right to vote?

• Is apartheid a sinful governmental practice?

And I will somewhat answer them by making the following observations:

• If all citizens have the divine and inalienable right to vote, then are we to conclude that the Monarchy of David all the way to our Savior, Christ, is sinful and violating rights, not to mention every other Monarchy in history?

• If apartheid is sinful then why do we allow the Cherokee Nations and other American Indian tribes to practice it in limiting citizenship to only those belonging to their tribe? Further, what about Israel’s prescription to only marry other Hebrews with few exceptions? If such a practice is sinful, why would God prescribe it?
God never (aside from Israel’s Theocracy) prescribes to humanity what form of civil government they are to establish. The most given are principles of divine establishment which we stated at the beginning of this section.

Thus, within those forms of government, various “civil rights” are granted via the authority structure of that government. Apart from violating direct Biblical mandates, civil rights are not a matter of “sin” or “morality” but relative matters. They can be derived from nuanced uses of the Scriptures but still, they are relative to the government structure.

Government comes in many forms:
Government comes in many forms

- Commonwealth
- Communism
- Confederacy
- Constitutional Democracy
- Constitutional Monarchy
- Democratic Republic
- Dictatorship
- Federal Republic
- Marxism-Leninism

- Monarchy
- Oligarchy
- Parliamentary Democracy
- Parliamentary Government
- Parliamentary monarchy
- Republic
- Socialism
- Sultanate
- Totalitarian
God grants great freedom to mankind in choosing the form of government the various tribes, states and nations wish to form for the benefit of its citizens.

God presents basic principles to guide human government which he refers to as “ministers”. They do God’s intended work in the left kingdom in order to provide a context for the welfare of mankind.

Civil rights within that governmental form, apart from those directly mentioned in Scripture (moral codes) are a matter of civil determination. God does not guarantee everyone the right to equal civil status only equal spiritual status.