

# What does the Bible Say?

Record your notes and thoughts on the class discussion of the three Bible chapters.

Romans 13: 1-7

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Matthew 22:15-22

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Titus 1:6-9

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# Comparison Chart Between God's Law and Canadian Law

## Canadian Law

## God's Law

Summary of Law	Negative - Do no harm.	Positive - Love God and neighbour.
<b>Source of authority</b>	Some aspects of law are assumed (e.g. human rights, dignity, equality) but without an articulated basis. Others are advanced on account of the changing will of the majority.	As Creator, God decides how His creation is meant to live, providing a blueprint for a healthy, happy life: individual, familial and societal.
<b>Formulation of Law</b>	Subjective and changing: written and interpreted by privileged individuals and developed from tradition or current values.	Objective and unchanging: 1) natural law - God's creation, preservation, and government of the universe; 2) Bible - complements natural law but with deeper clarity.
<b>Administration of Law</b>	Large bureaucracy required. Most responsibility put on the State. Little individual responsibility.	Very limited role of the civil government with increased freedom and responsibility put on other spheres of authority and government.
<b>Accountability in administering Law</b>	Broken and back-logged justice system which does little to address wrongs.	Judgment by the Sovereign God of the universe - waiting for every human being.
<b>Freedom as a result of Law</b>	Increasingly undermined by secular notions of equality and neutrality. As the state expands its reach, freedom diminishes.	Promoted extensively and protected vigorously (See our Freedom & Liberty policy report).
<b>Effects of Law</b>	Continual expansion of law leads to discouraged citizenry, contraction of productivity, and individualism.	Liberates - when humanity lives as God intended us to live, we flourish. Health, industry, equality and charity are promoted.

*This chart is taken from ARPA Canada's Respectfully Submitted: Supremacy of God published in Spring 2014.*

## News article #1

# “Church told to butt out”

Author: Elizabeth Thompson and Anne Dawson

Publication: CanWest News Service, with files from National Post January 28, 2005

FREDERICTON - The Roman Catholic Church should keep its nose out of the government's same-sex marriage legislation, Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew suggested yesterday.

Asked about plans by church groups in Quebec to launch a campaign against same-sex marriage, Mr. Pettigrew said the government and churches should not get involved in each other's affairs.

"I find that the separation of the Church and the state is one of the most beautiful inventions of modern times."

While some Liberal MPs have said they will oppose the legislation or have yet to make up their minds, Mr. Pettigrew said there is no doubt in his mind that he will support the bill to be tabled when Parliament resumes.

"It is a question of principle for me. I will support the government's legislation on the marriage of same-sex couples."

## News article #2

# “Pettigrew Puts Boots to Religious Canadians,”

Excerpt from an article by Ted Byfield, The Calgary Sun, January 30, 2005

“That’s not only the minister’ position, but also that of the liberal media. However, none of them seem to have taken this dictum to its inevitable conclusion. All laws – not just laws concerning sexual behaviour – are based upon some moral principle. The entire Criminal Code, for starters, is an anthology of morality. Thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not lie, thou shalt not murder, all these rules are moral principles....

The first point to note then is this: morality does not lie behind some of the things legislators do. It lies behind everything they do, because every law is an attempt to enforce –coercively–some moral principle. The second point is equally important. The basis of the morality of just about everybody in the country is religious. We don’t steal and we don’t murder because the bible says we shouldn’t. When we send money to relive the victims of the tsunami, it’s because we’re trying to love our neighbour, a biblical injunction. If we seek to make education available to everyone, it’s because we think it’s “fair,” and what we think “fair,” whether we realize it or not, comes directly out of the Bible.

Therefore, when Pettigrew says that religion must not be allowed to influence public policy, he disqualifies from participation in government all those whose moral basis lies in religion. Since our religion is ultimately the only reason we can give for favouring, or opposing, any law, he has in reality called for the disenfranchisement of just about every Canadian. And nobody in cabinet bats an eyelash. Welcome to the New Canada.”

# Sample Letters to the Editor

Both letters below were written by Christians. The first comes from an ordinary citizen, the second from a Member of Parliament. In different ways, both letters serve as good examples of how to communicate a Biblical point of view, even if the Bible is not necessary mentioned.

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RE: An explicit sex event at a local university

Lethbridge Herald

Editor,

It's not about being "up-to-date" or "democratic" or "free to do what's right for me". When one does good, and obeys the truth, there is blessing. When one does whatever one pleases, with no regard for truth or right, there is no blessing.

We need to maintain a respectful attitude toward sex as a God-given gift to mankind. The blessings in keeping sex within marriage (of a man and woman, of course) include strong husband/wife relationships, and well-adjusted, secure children.

Rather than fighting for "our rights", we need to focus on doing what is right before God.

SH Alberta

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Calgary Herald – March 10, 2006 -Time for limits

Re: "Choice, yes, within reason," Editorial, Feb. 26.

I want to commend the Herald for the thought-provoking and well-reasoned editorial. Canadians not only want limits on abortion, they want laws that protect women from being misled.

A 2005 Environics poll found 70 per cent of Canadians support requiring physicians to give women contemplating abortion information on fetal development, health risks of abortion, alternatives and an ultrasound scan. A woman also has the right to know abortion can harm her future children. A French study reported last year in the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology concluded abortion almost doubles the risk of future pre-term birth.

Women are also not told the fetus feels pain. Dr. K. S. Anand, an expert on pain perception in fetal and neonatal children, says the fetus feels pain by 20 weeks, and perhaps even earlier, and that the pain caused by abortion would be "prolonged and excruciating." In 2002, at least 308 children were aborted between 21 and 40 weeks gestation. We must all share in the blame for the more than 100,000 abortions annually in this country. We should help with crisis pregnancy centres and other programs to support women so abortion becomes a rare thing in a compassionate society.

Maurice Vellacott (MP for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin)

Ottawa