



E V A N G E L I C A L C H U R C H  
B I R M I N G H A M

Moral living in an immoral world

## The Christian and the state

### ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH:

What was the relationship between Old Testament Israel and the rest of the world?

Gen.12:1-3; Ex.19:5-6; Lev.11:45; Dt.7:6

What has changed in New Testament times?  
1Pet.2:9-10; 1Pet.1:15-16

### THE WORLD AND THE CHURCH:

What is the relationship of the church to the rest of the world? 1Pet.1:1; 1Pet.2:11; Rom.12:2

What is the nature of the kingdom of God?  
Jn.18:36; Jn.17:14-15; Phil.3:20; Heb.13:14

**We are not citizens of this world trying to get to heaven; we are citizens of heaven making our way through this world**

How should we behave towards the government? Why?  
Rom.13:1-5; 1Pet.2:13-14; Tit.3:1

Should we ever disobey? If so, in what sort of situations?  
Ex.1:15-17; Dan.3:4-6,12; Dan.6:6-10; Act.4:18-20

What should Christians expect from secular powers?  
Why? Jn.15:18-21; Eph.2:1-2; 1Jn.5:19; Rev.13:16-17

## **NATIONALISM, PACIFISM AND WAR:**

Should Christians be patriotic? Where should our loyalties lie? Jer.29:4-7; Mk.12:17; Mk.12:30

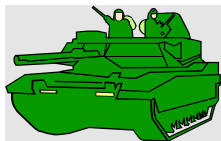
Mt.5:38-43

Is this a charter for conscientious objection?

Is it right for a Christian to swear an oath of allegiance to the armed forces?

Is there such a thing as a “just war”? What would be its characteristics?

What if amongst our enemies on the battlefield there were other members of God’s family?



## **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT:**

What forms of punishment were meted out in Old Testament Israel?

Is this a pattern for today?

Do we believe in capital punishment for murder? Gen.9:6; Rom.13:3-4

What about opportunities for murderers to come to Christ?

How should we consider the capital punishment prescribed in the Mosaic law for other offences? 1Cor.5:1-2; 1Tim.1:20

What should be the situation regarding justice between Christians? 1Cor.6:1-6

