

FRANCIS SCHAEFFER'S *A CHRISTIAN MANIFESTO*: A CALL FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE NOW

Dear Christian Co-Workers,

Dr. Francis Schaeffer's book, *A Christian Manifesto*, is what I consider to be a major description of God's "Marching Orders" for His obedient servants in the Body of Christ in whatever nation they reside at this critical time of world history.

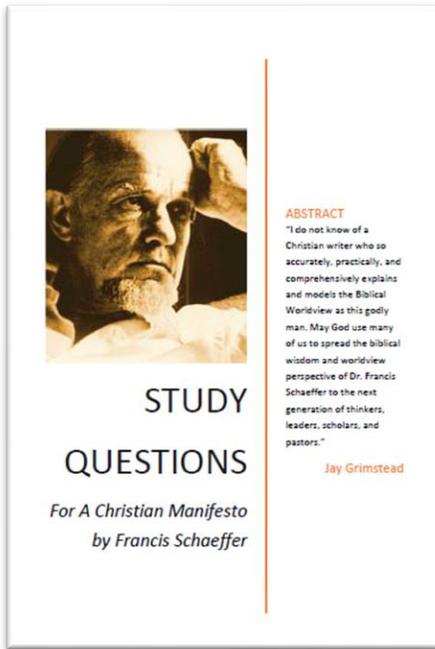
Of Dr. Schaeffer's 22 books, this is the one book wherein he most strongly states the following principles of civil disobedience:

- A. Civil disobedience is necessary when governments and government leaders unbiblically and illegally give us laws, mandates, and directions which contradict God's law and biblical principles.
- B. In Chapter 7, entitled "The Limits of Civil Disobedience," Dr. Schaeffer states, "God has ordained the state as a *delegated* authority, it is not autonomous. The state is to be an agent of justice, to restrain evil by punishing the wrongdoer, and to protect the good in society. When it does the reverse, it has no proper authority. It is then a usurped authority, and as such it becomes lawless and is tyranny." (*A Christian Manifesto*, p. 9)
- C. In Chapter 8, "The Use of Civil Disobedience," on pages 103 & 104, Dr. Schaeffer states that Samuel Rutherford (author of *Lex Rex*, 1644) suggested that there are three appropriate levels of resistance for an obedient servant of God:
 - *First*, he must defend himself by protest. In contemporary free societies, this would most often be by legal action.
 - *Second*, if protest fails, he must flee if possible.
 - *Third*, if necessary, he may use force to defend himself. One should not employ force if he may save himself by flight, nor should he employ flight if he can save and defend himself by protest and the employment of constitutional means of redress.

I urgently suggest that every biblically obedient Christian in America buy Dr. Schaeffer's book, *A Christian Manifesto*, read it to his or her family, and practice its advice while we are still able. This book may be purchased from Amazon.com for \$16. I encourage all biblically committed pastors and teachers to consider making this book a special study for the elders, deacons, and leaders in their church.

And for any thinking Christian who reads Christian material and holds any leadership in the Body of Christ, I suggest that, to prepare themselves for future growth in a biblical worldview, in theology, and in living of a

Christian life, they should also consider buying the five-volume *The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer* (also available from Amazon.com) and set a goal of reading through all 22 books in the next five to seven years.



NOTE: To all you dear readers of this bi-monthly "COR UPDATE," I wish to offer you a free set of the "Study Questions" I created for all 10 chapters of Dr. Schaeffer's book, *A Christian Manifesto*, which I am convinced are largely the very questions whose answers he would have wanted you to be able to articulate from the chapters of this book.

Dr. Schaeffer was my mentor and personal friend and served on the Executive Council of the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy (ICBI) whose leaders I gathered in 1977 and of which I was the executive director for 1977 and 1978.

If you want this set of study questions for *A Christian Manifesto*, just return the request card to me in the self-addressed envelope; and I will send you your complimentary copy. And, if you are one of COR's regular donors, please know that I am very grateful for your faithful love and your support of this ministry for building up the Body of Christ with His Truth.

With love and much gratitude to our great God and to you supporters,

Dr. Jay Grimstead
Director of COR and the Church Council Project

