

## Acts 4:13-22 – Sanctity of Life Sunday

### Introduction

1. Canada's Parliament Passed Bill C-4
  - a. December 7, 2021 – Canadian Senate passed Bill C-4
  - b. December 8, 2021 – Royal Assent was given
  - c. January 8, 2022 – Bill C-4 is made law of the land in Canada
  - d. Bill C-4 makes it a criminal offense to propagate the Gospel, calling for repentance of sexual sins and aberrations to truth
2. Pastors Bartolo and MacArthur have called on Canadian and American pastors to unite to promote the biblical sexual ethic and biblical marriage, and stand against the destruction of society
3. American Christians are not immune to what is happening in Canada, i.e. HR-5 (the Equality Act)

**A Fitting Truth: Christians have a duty before God to shed light on the darkness of Sin by propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and all the truths that surround it. Even if a government seeks to deny the Truth or make it illegal to express the Truth, Christians are to obey God, rather than men.**

### Context And Questions (Acts 4)

1. The Context: Peter and John have been arrested for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ; courts are examining the veracity of their claims: the evidence of truth is a crippled man has been healed
  - a. The apostles are before human authority forbidding the practice of teaching in the name of Jesus
2. The Questions: What should our thinking be in relation to God and in relation to the State? Where do I submit to the Lord and submit to human authority?
  - a. No person or group is our authority; the Word is our authority
  - b. Is what our Canadian brothers doing in the pulpits of their nation held up in the light of Scripture?
  - c. Are they rebelling against God when they rebel against a particular law passed down from the government?

### The Confounded Ruling Council (Acts 4:13)

1. The rulers were amazed at the boldness of Peter & John
  - a. Peter and John were confident and courageous because they knew they had God and the Truth of Christ
  - b. Jesus is the Truth: He is the only way of salvation
  - c. What Jesus does is True: He established the Creative Order
  - b. Jesus defines what is True: Boundaries of Sexual Ethics, Biology, the Assigned sex and gender at birth (**Acts 17:28**)
2. The Ruling Council is astonished: They wanted to know who or what gave Peter and John authority (**Acts 4:7**)
  - a. The Apostles said the Name of Jesus! (**Acts 4:10, 12**)

- i. Jesus is the authority & gave His authority to believers to be His witnesses (**Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8**)

### The Command of the Ruling Council (Acts 4:14-18)

1. The human, creaturely authority attempted to silence the divine, Creator's command
2. The sinful nature at work: Even when evidence is plain and the truth mounts up against perception and emotional conviction, denial of truth and suppression of righteousness occurs
  - a. **Verse 17** describes the behavior of people not interested in the Truth of God, but only benefit from falsehood
3. *We see this in the battle of Sexual Ethics:* What God has ordained as right and good (**Gen 1:27-28, 9:1**), is deemed as a "myth," "stereotypical," emotionally manipulative, archaic, etc.
  - a. Laws are made to silence the Truth; threats of fines/prison
  - b. It is hypocritical, for the godless will still propagate their immorality without hindrance
4. The Truth We Propagate Regarding the Biblical Sexual Ethic:
  - a. You are created, fearfully and wonderfully made, in God's image (**Psalms 139:14, see Genesis 1:26-27**)
  - b. Men and Women are different by design, having *complementary* roles in marriage (**Genesis 2:23-24**)
  - c. Marriage is one biological male, one biological female for life; and this union is a living metaphor of the Gospel (**See Ephesians 5**)
5. The Rulers of Jerusalem, and Today in Canada: Be Silent!

### The Apostle's Choice (Acts 4:19-20)

1. The apostle's would either obey man, or obey God
  - a. The assumption is the rulers were not on the side of God

### Christian Civil Disobedience

1. When faced with a choice of whether to obey God or obey men, we are justified in disobeying human authority
  - a. It is sinful to agree with or silently disregard disobedience to the Lord's Commands and His Truth
2. The Bible Commands us to be submissive to Human Authority, whether it is government or work, civil or unjust (**1 Peter 2:13-20**); Jesus submitted to unjust human authority (**vv 21-24**)
  - a. We are to submit ourselves for God instituted human authority, even if it is unjust (**Rom 13:1-5**); **Ex: Daniel 1**
  - b. When faced with a choice, we do not disobey God!

### Application

1. The Monastic, Secular, Cowardly, Biblical Approaches (**Boice**)
2. God is Ultimate: Obey God! (**Ac 4:20, 1 Corinthians 9:16**)