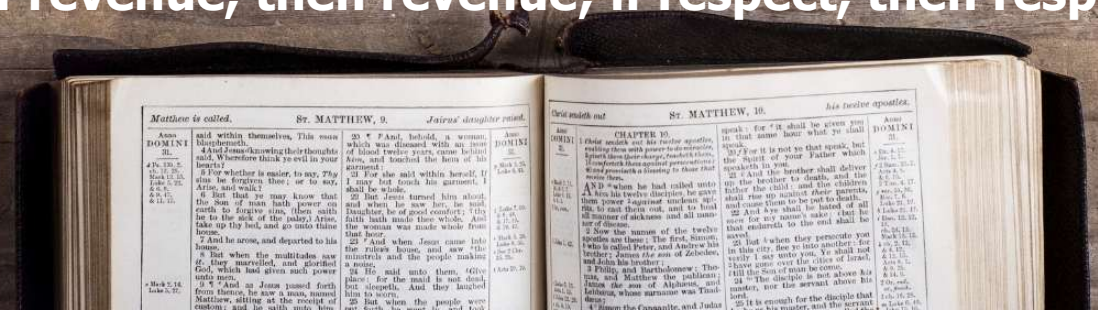
RENEWED, ROOTED, READY
Romans 12-16

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority
except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been
established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is
rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring
judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but
for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in
authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. 4 For the one in
authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers
do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to
bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the
authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of
conscience.
6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give
their full time to governing. 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: if you owe
taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour,
then honour.



Romans 13:1-7

1. God 'establishes' those in authority

- **V1** ***there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.***
- **V2** ***what God has instituted***
- **V4** ***the one in authority is God's servant for your good***
- **V6** ***the authorities are God's servants***

Proverbs 8:15-16

"By me kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just; by me princes govern, and nobles—all who rule on earth."

Daniel 2:21 and 4:17

"He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others"

"The Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes"

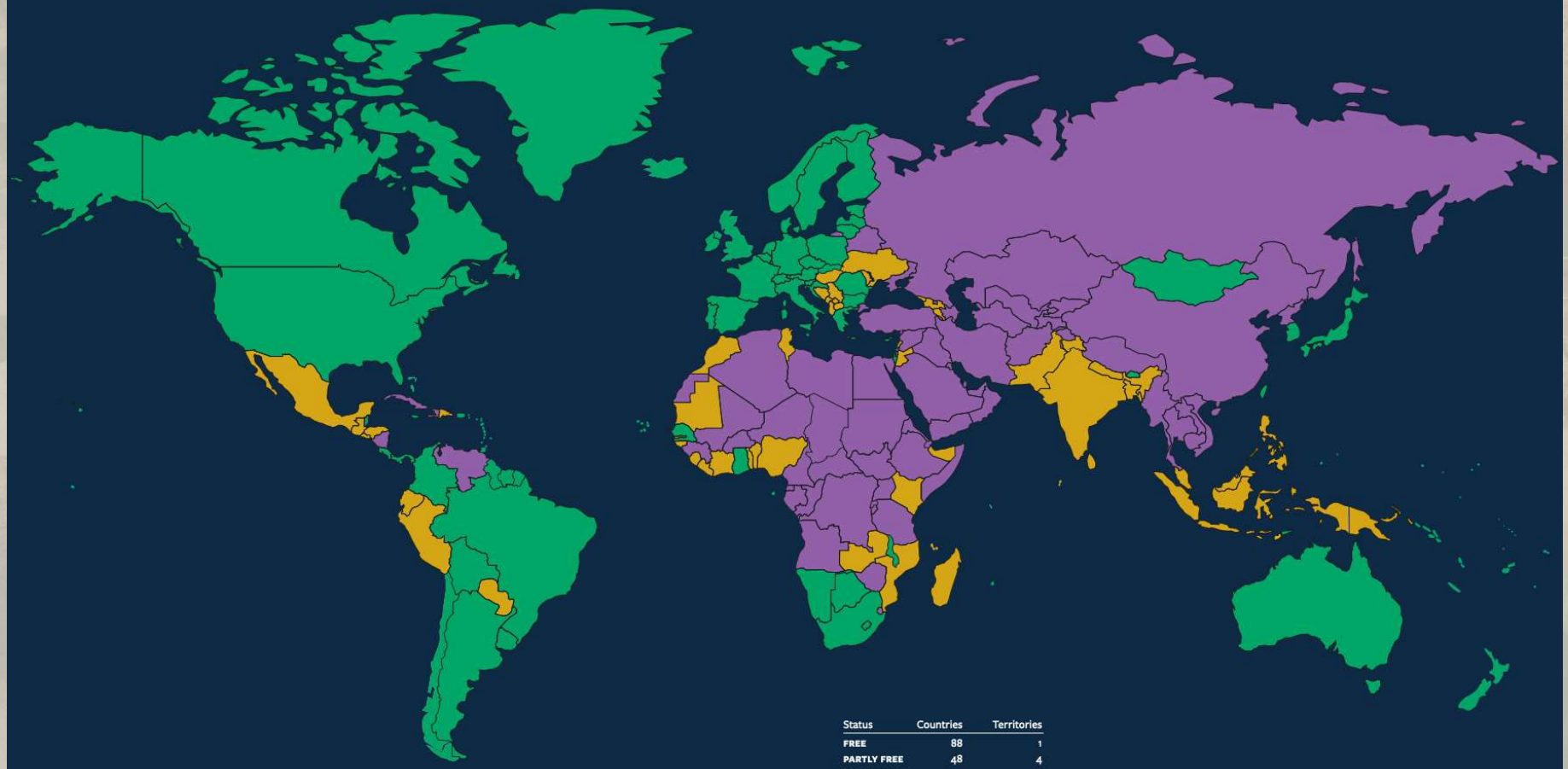
2. God establishes authorities for our good

- **V4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.**

- *"And he blessed Joseph and said, 'The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,* ***the God who has been my shepherd all my life long*** *to this day…* **Genesis 48:15**

Freedom House

FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2026



Status	Countries	Territories
FREE	88	1
PARTLY FREE	48	4
NOT FREE	59	8
Total	195	13

Freedom in the World 2026 assessed 208 countries and territories around the globe.

PCSO: I was suspended for questions on Islam

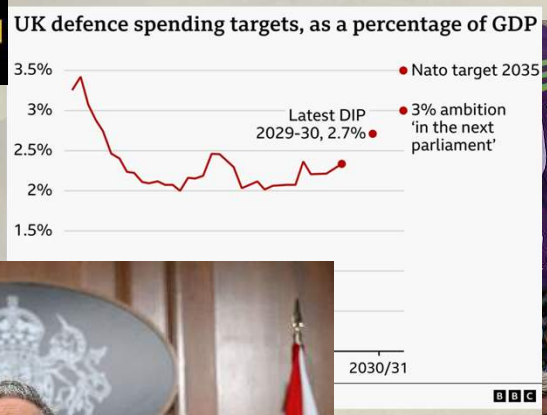
Officer who asked for chat with Muslim at training day says police live in fear of saying the wrong thing

Gordon Rayner

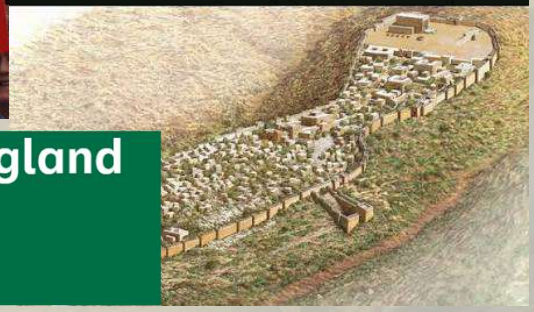
A Christian police support officer was suspended after he asked questions about Islam in a diversity training session.

Luke Salmons eventaully resigned his job as a police community support officer (PCSO) with the North Yorkshire force and was barred from policing after a conversation about Gaza with a Muslim officer.

He later won an appeal against his dismissal but has never



FACT: Jerusalem was already the capital of the Jewish people when Britain was in its Bronze Age.



Changes to the law on abortion in England and Wales

Published Monday, 03 August, 2026

3. Should we pay taxes?

V6-7 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour.

MATTHEW 22:17-20

Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the poll-tax to Caesar or not?'

18 *But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, 'You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? **19** Show me the coin used for paying the tax.' They brought him a denarius, **20** and he asked them, 'Whose image is this? And whose inscription?'*

21 *'Caesar's,' they replied. Then he said to them, 'So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.'*

4. What does *submission* look like?

The normal biblical rule: submit to authorities

- **V1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities…**
- **V5 …it is necessary to submit to the authorities,**

- **1 Peter 2:13–17**
- **Titus 3:1**
- **Matthew 22:21**

Responsible submission vs unconditional compliance

ὑποτάσσω

ὑπακούω

5. WHEN SHOULD WE DISSENT?

1. When the government commands you to do something **God has forbidden**.

   E.g. Exodus 1:15-21 *sanctity of life*

   E.g Daniel 3, 6 *worshipping idols*

2. When the government forbids you to do something **God has commanded**.

   E.g. Acts 4:18-20 and Acts 5:28-29 *speaking and ministering in the name of Jesus*

NB disobedience of authorities because of the Word of God should be done in the manner of Jesus, the Son of God.

NB dissent/disobedience is different from protest, pressure and being a prayerful prophetic voice!!

SITUATION	BIBLICAL PATTERN
Government commands something morally neutral	Obey
Government asks you to do something inconvenient or costly	Generally obey
You disagree with a government's policies	Disagreement itself doesn't establish a biblical basis for disobedience, but…
Government commands something God explicitly forbids	Obey God rather than humans
Government forbids something God explicitly commands	Continue obeying God
Disobedience brings punishment	Be prepared to accept the consequences faithfully
Government is unjust	Seek lawful remedies where possible; injustice alone doesn't necessarily mean every law can be ignored
Government commands idolatry or denial of God	Refuse the command

Ask questions rather than statements

The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God. **Genesis 17:8**

Also see as example: Genesis 13:15, Genesis 26:3, 1 Chronicles 16:16–18, Genesis 15:18, Exodus 23:31, Joshua 1:4, Ezekiel 36:24, Ezekiel 37:25, Amos 9:15

Act in the manner of Jesus

Restrictions on Public Evangelism and Expression

He [Jesus] said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. **Mark 16:15**

(see also Matthew 28:19–20)

NB it is not illegal to share the Gospel in the UK. However we need wisdom in the manner in which the Gospel is shared

Consider what is your preferred ecclesiology vs contrary to Scripture

Leadership of churches during COVID

What is going against Scriptural instruction and what is based on or limited by our preferred ecclesiology?

"The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, and they that lack the beginning have neither middle nor end."

John Bunyan

(Pilgrim's Progress 1758)

Christian MP calls for “re-founding” of UK on biblical teachings (July 2025)

God save our gracious King!
Long live our noble King!
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King.

O Lord our God arise,
Scatter our enemies,
And make them fall!
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
On Thee our hopes we fix,
God save us all!

Thy choicest gifts in store,
On him be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign:
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

Not in this land alone,
But be God's mercies known,
From shore to shore!
Lord make the nations see,
That men should brothers be,
And form one family,
The wide world o’er.

From every latent foe,
From the assassin's blow,
God save the King!
O'er his thine arm extend,
For Britain's sake defend,
Our father, prince, and friend,
God save the King!

What is our response to be?

- **Responsible submission and Christ-like dissent**
  - Know the lines not to cross both
    - for the Government and also for us
    - in submission and in dissent
- **Prayer** (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- Grow our **prophetic voice**, calling our leaders to biblical governance including:
  - Justice, order and security (Romans 13:2-4)
  - Righteousness (Proverbs 29:2)
  - Prosperity and blessing (Psalm 72:3)
  - Care for poor, marginalised and vulnerable (Proverbs 29:14, Isaiah 1:17, Psalm 72:2-4)
  - Godly discernment and wisdom (Proverbs 28:2)
- Humbly and prayerfully act as **spiritual watchmen** (Ezekiel 3:17)
- Be like the Sons of **Issachar** (1 Chronicles 12:32) and like the **Bereans** (Acts 17:11)

- **Evangelical Alliance**: www.eauk.org/resourc

- **Christian Concern and Christian Legal Centre** www.christianconcern.com

- **Christian Institute** www.christian.org.uk

- **Christians in Politics** www.christiansinpolitics.org.u

- **CARE (Christian Action, Research and Educatio**
  www.care.org.uk