



King
King
King \$
Kingdom
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KING & KINGDOM

COMING UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE CONSTITUTION

Romans 13:1-7

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good.

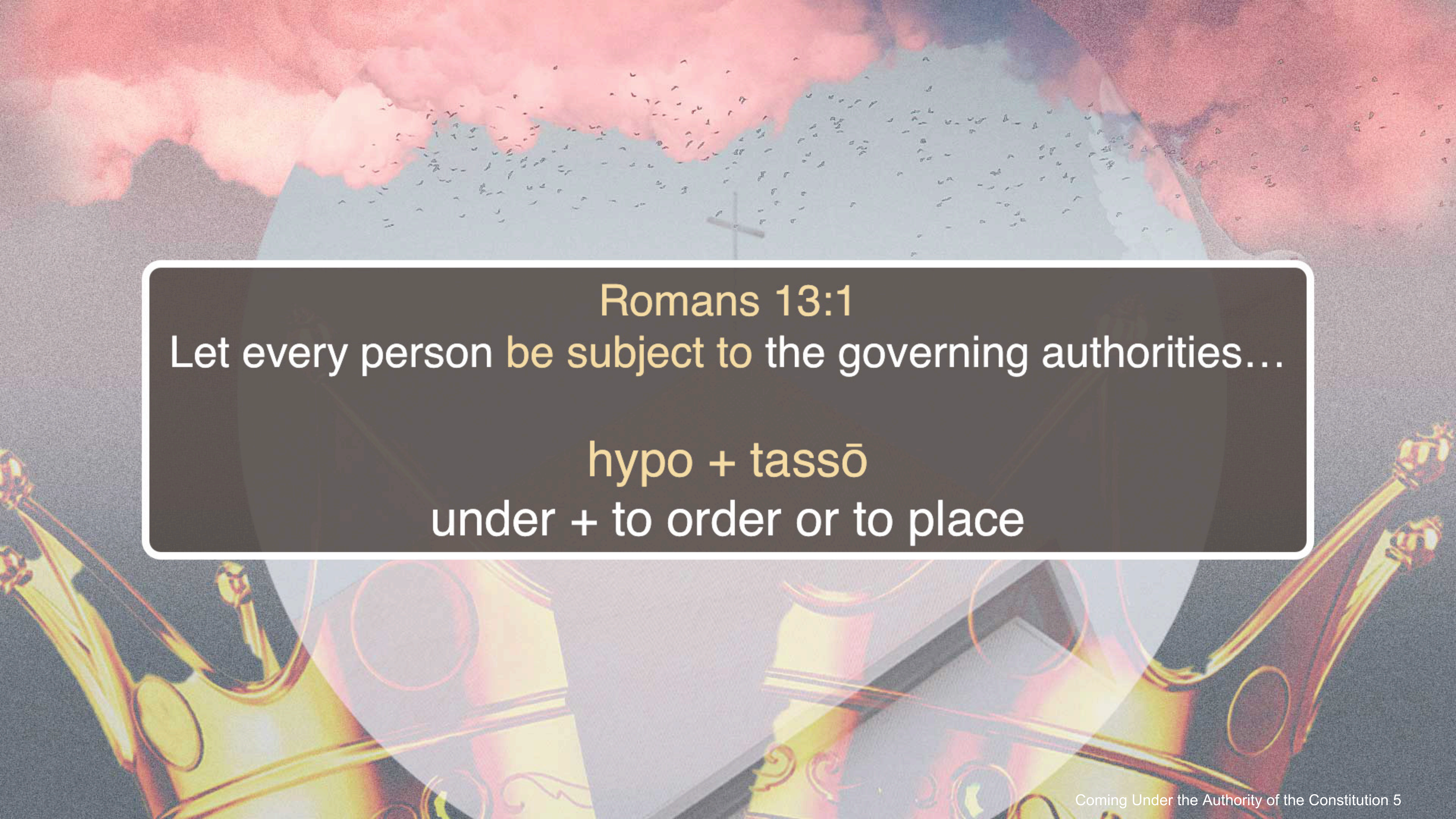
Romans 13:1-7

But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.



We are Citizens of God's Kingdom.

- Who is the King?
- Where is the kingdom?
- What is the kingdom like?
- Who are the citizens?
- What's the law of the King?
- How ought His ambassadors live in foreign countries?



Romans 13:1
Let every person **be subject to** the governing authorities...

hypo + tassō
under + to order or to place

**13:1 - Place yourself under
governing authorities**

**13:2-5 - Don't resist
but be good**

**13:7 Give Respect
& Honor**

13:6-7 - Pay Taxes

**13:3 - You will have
nothing to fear**

Historical Context Romans 13:1-7

Letter to Romans
AD 57

CLAUDIUS

AD 41

NERO

AD 54

AD 68

Historical Context Romans 13:1-7

- The people of Rome were frustrated over taxes under Nero.
- Claudius expelled the Jews (and Jewish Christians) from Rome approx AD 49-53 over "Chrestus."
- Rome was not a Western Democracy.
- The Roman Church was small, young, and fragile.
- Approx. 5 house churches named by Paul.



“There were persistent public complaints against
the companies farming indirect taxes
from the government...”

- Tacitus, 1st Century Roman Historian

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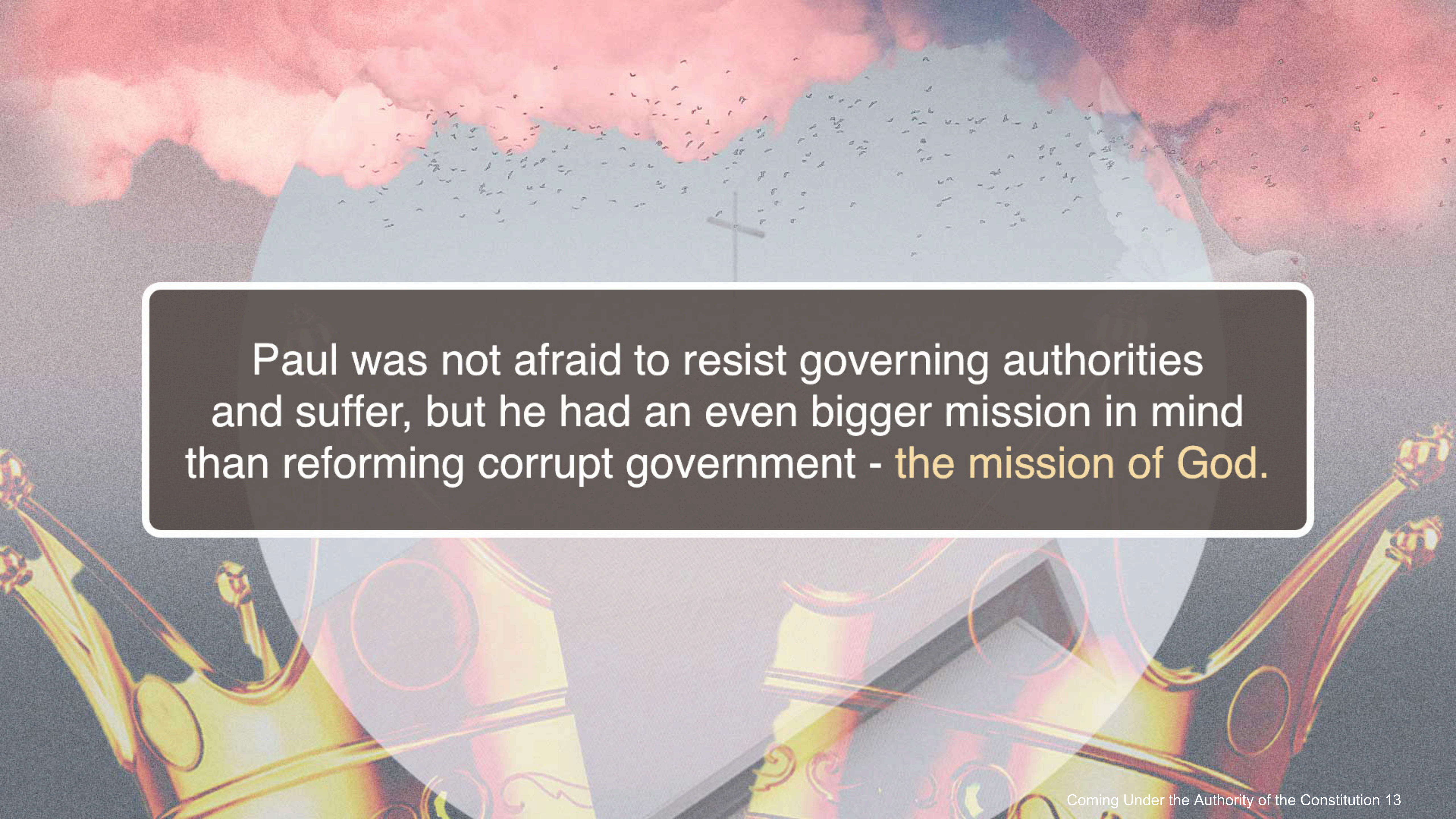


Acts 18:2

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome.

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Paul was not afraid to resist governing authorities and suffer, but he had an even bigger mission in mind than reforming corrupt government - **the mission of God.**



Considering our context, governmental system, social standing, ecclesial strength, and political power, what does it look like for Christians to "be subject to" the governing authorities in the USA?



Coming under the authority of the US Government
is dramatically different than Rome.



The USA has a democratic form of government.

- It derives its ultimate authority from the consent of its citizens who participate through free and fair elections.
- It is not a direct democracy, but a constitutional republic.

The background of the slide features a stylized illustration of the United States Capitol dome in a light blue-grey tone. Above the dome, a large, vibrant eagle with red, orange, and yellow feathers is depicted in flight. The entire scene is set against a dark, textured background. A semi-transparent dark grey box with a white border is positioned in the center, containing the main text and list.

The Constitution is the Supreme Law of the USA.

- Preamble
- Seven articles
- 27 amendments

The background of the slide features a stylized illustration of the United States Capitol dome in the upper portion, with a large eagle in flight. The lower portion of the slide shows a close-up of the ornate, golden columns of the Capitol building. The entire scene is set against a soft, pinkish-red sky.

The Preamble of the Constitution

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

The background of the slide features a stylized illustration of the United States Capitol dome in the upper left, with a large eagle in flight across the sky. The lower portion of the image shows the ornate columns and pediment of the building. A semi-transparent dark grey box with a white border is centered over the image, containing the text.

The Constitution instituted three branches for the federal government.

- The legislative makes the law.
- The executive executes and enforces the law.
- The judicial interprets the law.
- Each branch is designed to limit the authority of others through checks and balances.




The Bill of Rights - The First 10 Amendments

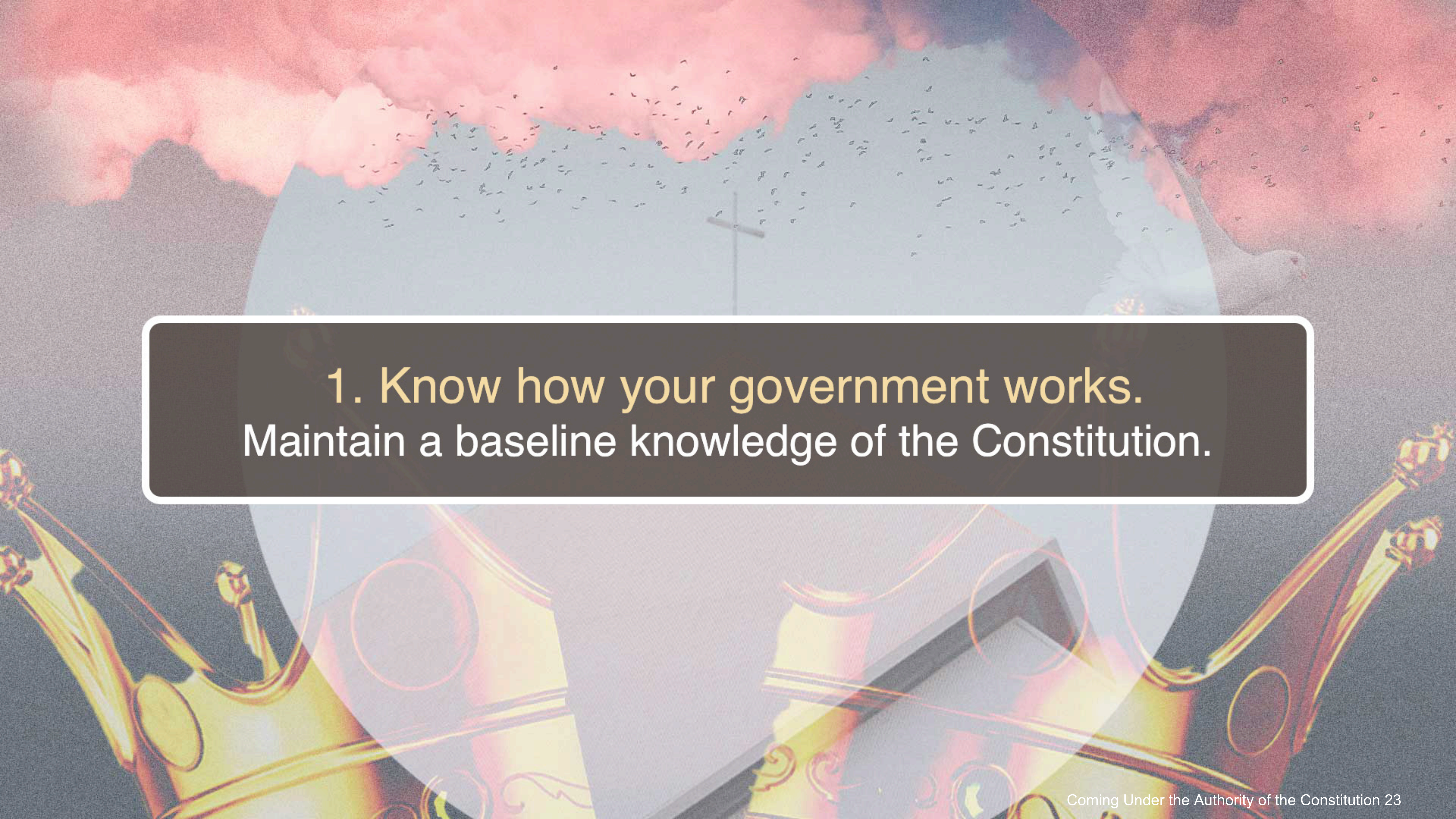
1. Freedom of Religion
Freedom of Speech
Freedom of the Press
Freedom of Assembly
Freedom of Petition

The Bill of Rights - The First 10 Amendments


2. Right to Bear Arms
3. "No Quartering" Right
4. Freedom from Unreasonable Search/Seizure
5. Right to Equal Justice
6. Right to Speedy & Fair Trial
7. Right to Jury Trial in Civil Lawsuits
8. Freedom from Excessive Fines and Cruel & Unusual Punishment
9. Right to Many Other Freedoms
10. State Rights



When we “come under the governing authorities” in the USA, we are coming under the authority of our Constitution which empowers the people and gives the people many freedoms.



1. Know how your government works.
Maintain a baseline knowledge of the Constitution.



2. Leverage your constitutional freedoms and rights. This is how we legally hold our elected officials accountable.

Vote. Assemble. Petition. Speak.
Protest. Organize. Advocate.



3. Protect others' constitutional freedoms and rights.
This is how we maintain freedom over tyranny.

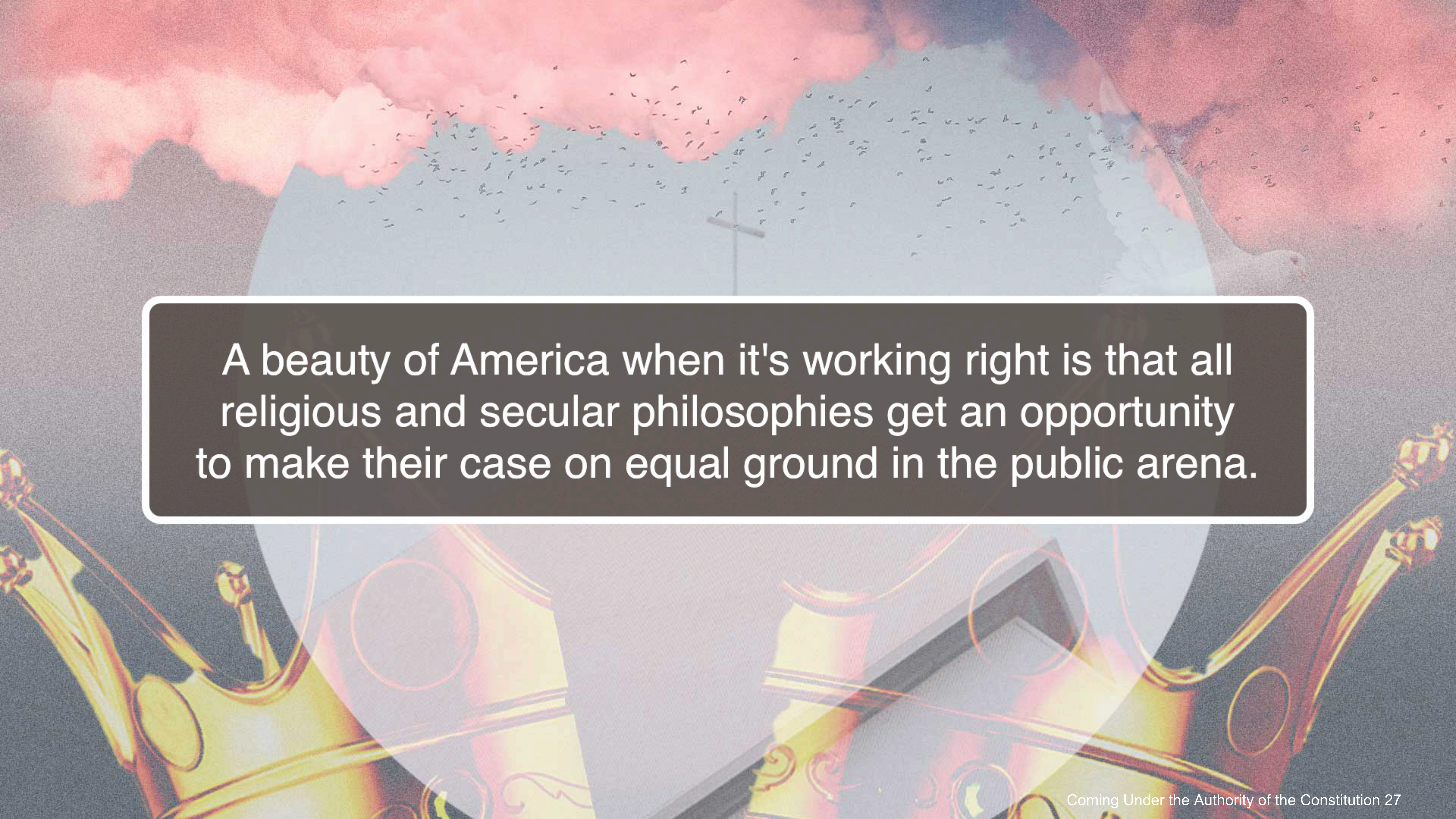


Ginsburg Confirmation - 1993

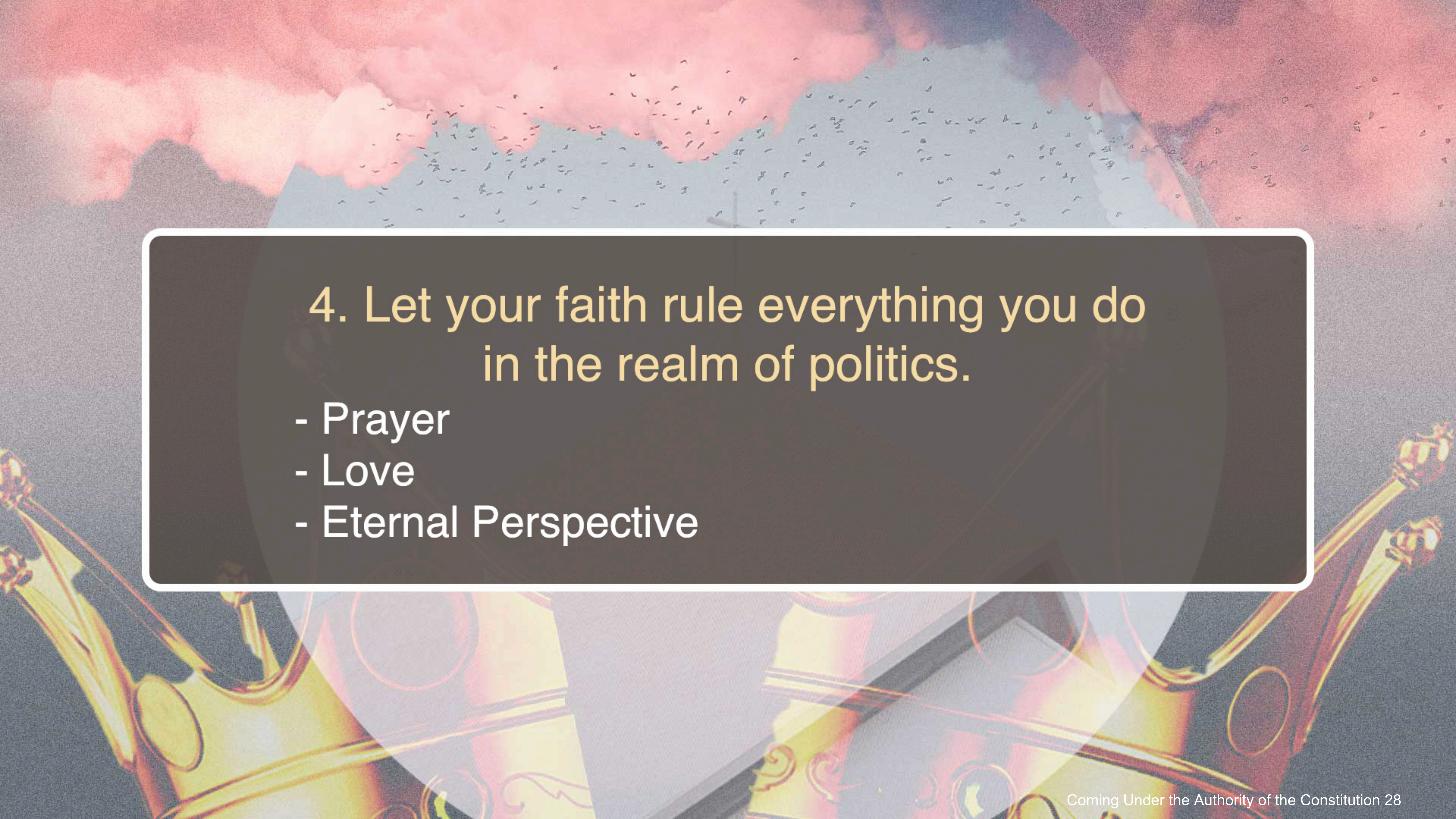
- 96 to 3
- Bob Dole
- Strom Thurmond
- Mitch McConnell

Scalia Confirmation - 1986

- 98 to 0
- Al Gore
- John Kerry
- Joe Biden

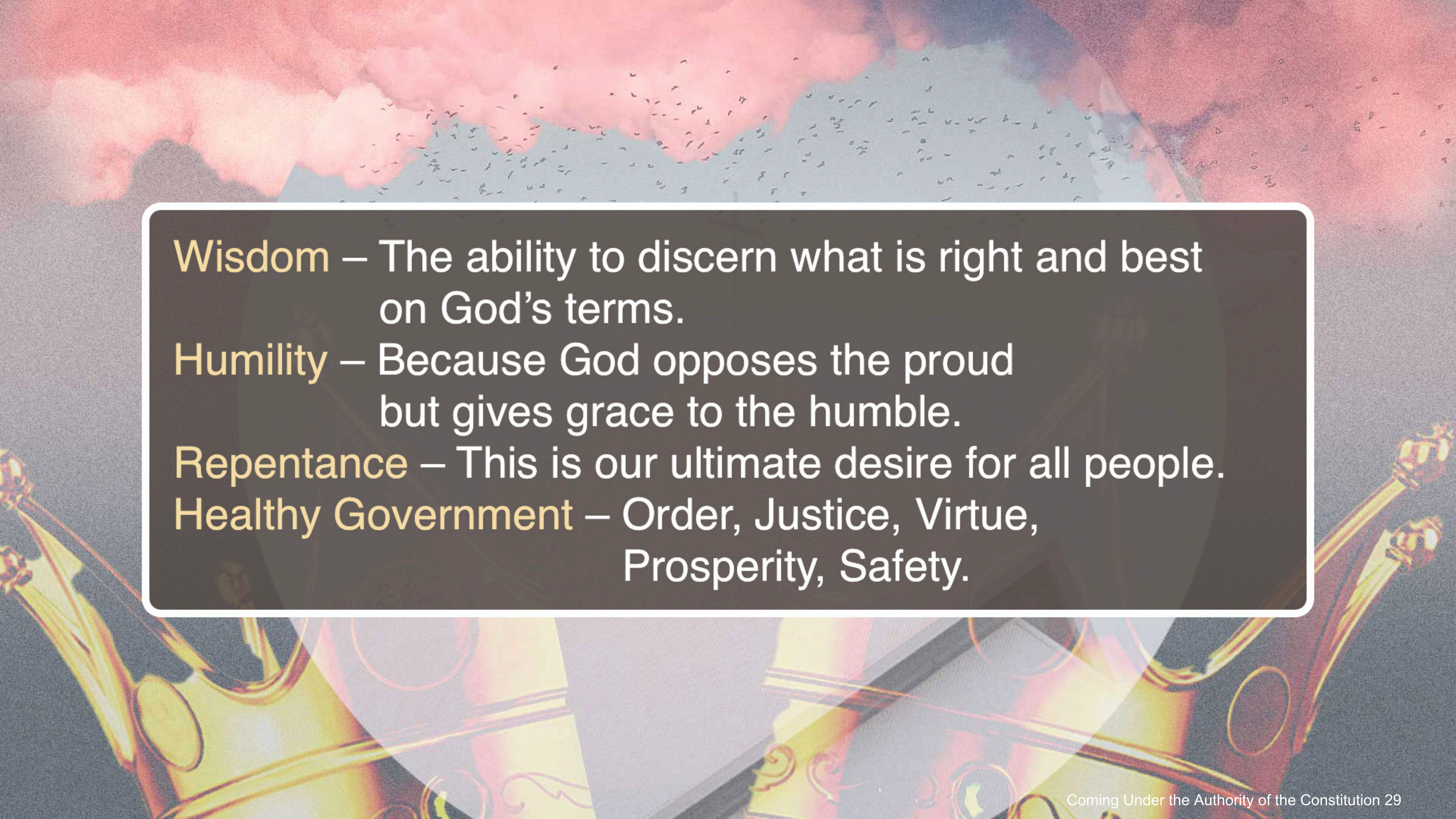


A beauty of America when it's working right is that all religious and secular philosophies get an opportunity to make their case on equal ground in the public arena.



4. Let your faith rule everything you do in the realm of politics.

- Prayer
- Love
- Eternal Perspective

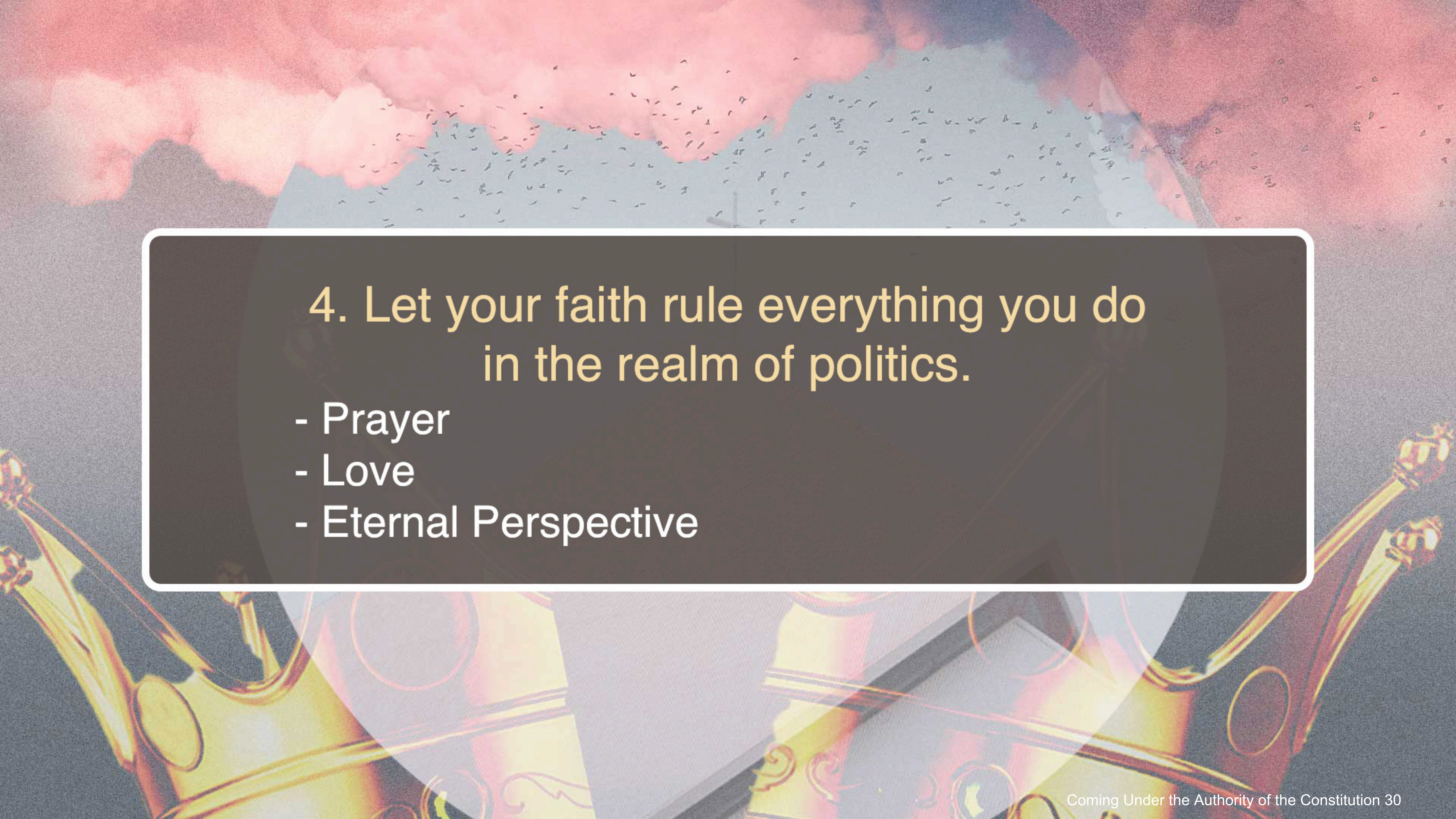


Wisdom – The ability to discern what is right and best on God's terms.

Humility – Because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

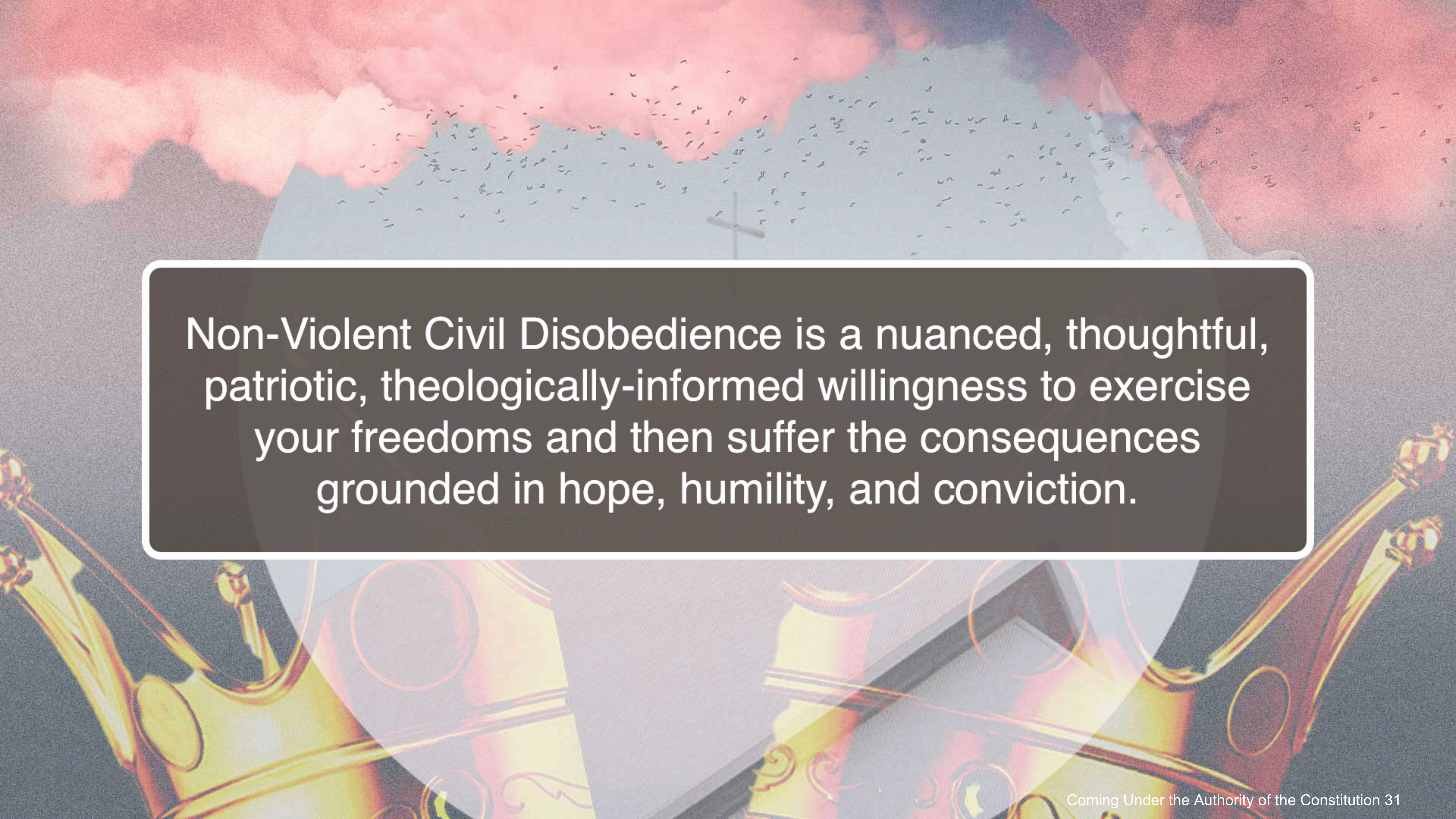
Repentance – This is our ultimate desire for all people.

Healthy Government – Order, Justice, Virtue, Prosperity, Safety.

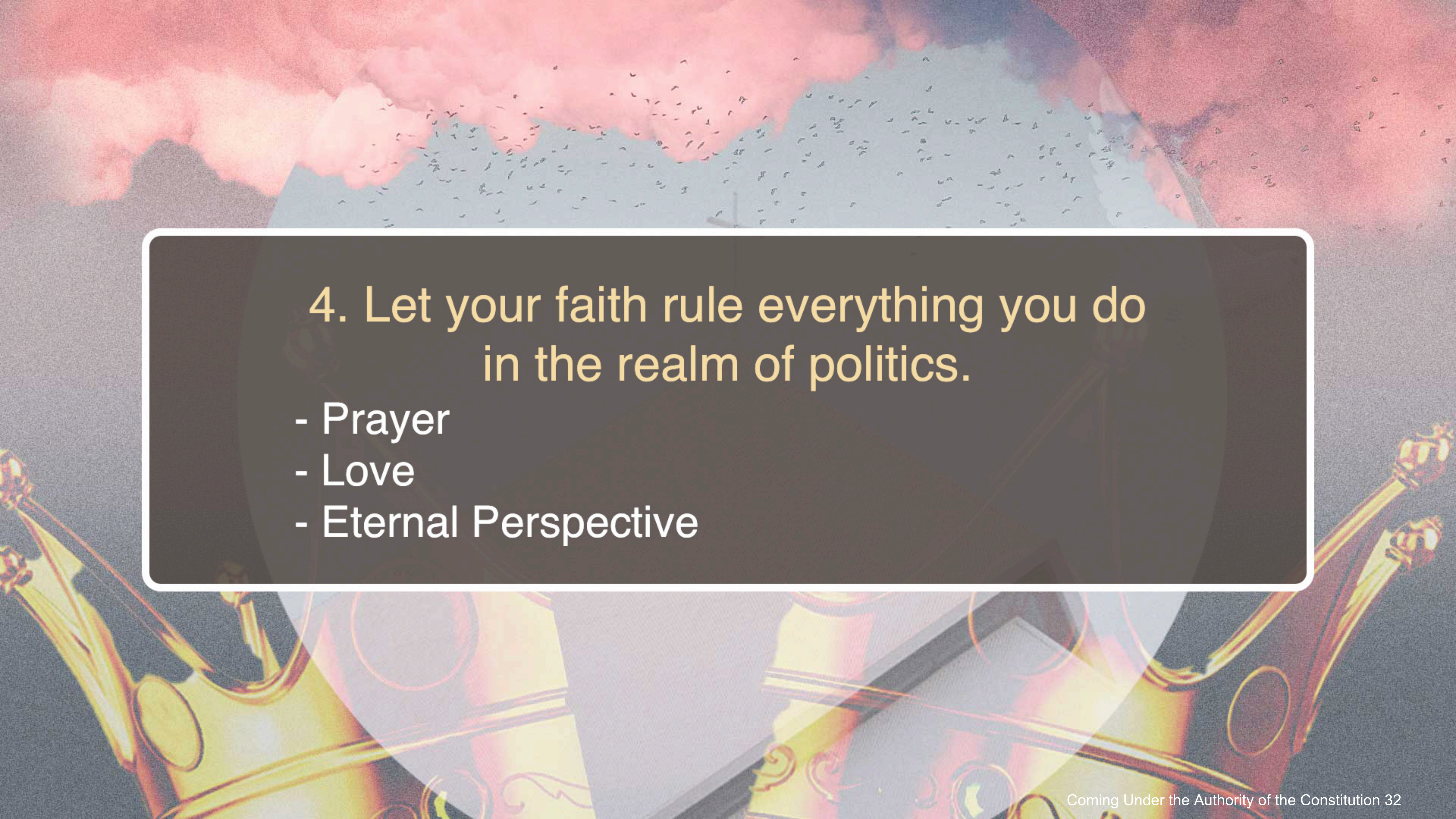


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Non-Violent Civil Disobedience is a nuanced, thoughtful, patriotic, theologically-informed willingness to exercise your freedoms and then suffer the consequences grounded in hope, humility, and conviction.



4. Let your faith rule everything you do in the realm of politics.

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The US Government is different than Rome

When we “come under the governing authorities” in the USA, we come under the Constitution which empowers the people and gives the people more freedoms.

1. Know how your government works.

2. Leverage your constitutional freedoms and rights.

3. Protect others' constitutional freedoms and rights.

4. Let your faith rule everything you do in politics.
- Prayer - Love - Eternal Perspective

Colossians 1:15-23

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through Him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through Him and for Him. He existed before anything else, and He holds all creation together.



Colossians 1:15-23

Christ is also the head of the church, which is His body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So He is first in everything. For God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through Him God reconciled everything to Himself. He made peace with everything in Heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

Colossians 1:15-23

This includes you who were once far away from God. You were His enemies, separated from Him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now He has reconciled you to Himself through the death of Christ in His physical body. **As a result, He has brought you into His own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before Him without a single fault.**

But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it.

Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News.