Is There a Place for Civil Disobedience in Pharmacy?

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Disclaimer

I do not have a vested interest in or affiliation with any corporate organization offering financial support or grant monies for this continuing education program, or any affiliation with an organization whose philosophy could potentially bias my presentation.

I am not a lawyer.
All people are theologians.

Objectives

• Define civil disobedience.
• Identify professional and personal results of performing civil disobedience.
• Discuss civil disobedience in relation to pharmacy’s ethical statements.
• Discuss civil disobedience in relation to Scripture.
• Develop a plan to practice as a Christian pharmacist concerning civil disobedience.

Definition: Civil Disobedience

• "refusal to obey laws as a way of forcing the government to do or change something"

http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/civil%20disobedience

Small Group Activity #1

• Discuss:
  – If civil disobedience is to be avoided, what are some professional and personal results of performing civil disobedience?

Large Group Activity #1

• Communicate:
  – Professional and personal results of performing civil disobedience if it should be avoided
Professional and personal results of performing civil disobedience if it should be avoided

- Job loss
- Financial loss
- Demotion
- Lack of promotion
- License (livelihood) loss
- Influence loss

Small Group Activity #2

- Discuss:
  - If civil disobedience is to be performed, what are some professional and personal results of performing civil disobedience?

Large Group Activity #2

- Communicate:
  - Professional and personal results of performing civil disobedience if it should be performed

  - Previous list if authorities not desire you to perform civil disobedience
    - Loss of job, finances, license, & influence
    - Demotion or lack of promotion
  - Opposite list + government changes

Pledge of Professionalism

- “The profession of pharmacy is one that demands adherence to a set of rigid ethical standards. These high ideals are necessary to ensure the quality of care extended to the patients I serve.”

  (emphasis added)

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Oath of a Pharmacist

• “I will maintain the highest principles of moral, ethical, and legal conduct. I will embrace and advocate change in the profession of pharmacy that improves patient care.” (emphasis added)


Code of Ethics for Pharmacists

• “A pharmacist has a duty to tell the truth and to act with conviction of conscience. A pharmacist avoids discriminatory practices, behavior or work conditions that impair professional judgment, and actions that compromise dedication to the best interests of patients.” (emphasis added)


Civil Obedience & Disobedience in Scripture

Civil Obedience & Disobedience in Scripture

Romans 13:1-7

• Romans 13:1-7

– “13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except by God’s appointment, and the authorities that exist have been instituted by God. 13:2 So the person who resists such authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will incur judgment 13:3 (for rulers cause no fear for good conduct but for bad). Do you desire not to fear authority? Do good and you will receive its commendation, 13:4 for it is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be in fear, for it does not bear the sword in vain. It is God’s servant to administer retribution on the wrongdoer.”

Romans 13:1-7 Examined

A. Every person is to be submissive to the governing authorities established by God (13:1 – 4).

1. Every person is commanded to be submissive to the governing authorities (13:1).

a. Every person is to be submissive because there is no authority except by God (13:1a-1b).

b. Every person is to be submissive because those that exist have been established by God (13:1c).
Romans 13:1-7 Examined

2. Actions will result in consequences (13:2 – 4).
   a. The person who resists authority will incur judgment (13:2).
   b. The person who does good will receive praise for it is God’s servant for the person’s good (13:3 – 4a).
   c. However, the person who does wrong will receive retribution (13:4b).

Romans 13:1-7 Examined

B. Therefore, every person must be submissive to the governing authorities (13:5).
   1. Every person must be submissive because of wrath (13:5a).
   2. Every person must be submissive because of conscience (13:5b).

Romans 13:1-7 Examined

C. Every person is to render what is owed to the governing authorities (13:6-7).
   1. Every person is to pay taxes because the authorities are God’s servants (13:6).
   2. Every person is commanded to pay back what is owed (13:7).
      b. Revenue (13:7c).
      c. Respect (13:7d).
      d. Honor (13:7e).

Romans 13:1-7 Question #1

• Large Group Discussion:
  – Are there are there ungodly establishments and laws?

Romans 13:1-7 Question #2

• Small Group Activity #3
  – Discuss: Since all authority is established by God, why are there ungodly establishments and laws?

Romans 13:1-7 Question

• Large Group Activity #3
  – Communicate: Since all authority is established by God, why are there ungodly establishments and laws?
Since all authority is established by God, why are there ungodly establishments and laws?

– Discipline: OT History

• United Kingdom
  – Saul (1050 – 1010 BC)
  – David (1010 – 970 BC)
  – Solomon (970 – 930 BC)

• Divided Kingdom (930 BC)
  – Northern (Israel)
  – Southern (Judea)

• Northern Kingdom Defeated
  – Amos (760 BC) & Hosea (755 BC) warn of God’s Judgment
  – Israel remains unrepentant
  – Assyria defeats Samaria conquering Israel in 722 BC

Since all authority is established by God, why are there ungodly establishments and laws?

– Discipline: OT History

• Southern Kingdom Defeated
  – Judah ignores Israel’s discipline (defeat)
  – Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, & Ezekiel warn Judah of God’s judgment
  – Babylonia (King Nebuchadnezzar) defeats Assyria (612 BC) then Egypt (605 BC) then enters Jerusalem
  – Exile – 3 deportations
    » 1) 605 BC – Daniel + 3 friends taken to Babylon
    » 2) 597 BC – Judean rebellion squashed, Ezekiel taken to Babylon, Jeremiah remains in Jerusalem
    » 3) 586 BC – Jerusalem destroyed & Judah taken captive

Since all authority is established by God, why are there ungodly establishments and laws?

– Discipline: OT History (Habakkuk 1-2)

• God used an evil nation (Babylon) to discipline His chosen people

– Discipline: NT Experience (Hebrews 12:5-13)

"And have you forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as sons? "My son, do not scorn the Lord’s discipline or give up when he corrects you. "For the Lord disciplines the one he loves and chastises every son he accepts." Endure your suffering as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline? But if you do not experience discipline, something all sons have shared in, then you are illegitimate and are not sons."

Since all authority is established by God, why are there ungodly establishments and laws?

– Discipline: NT Experience (Hebrews 12:5-13) (continued)

“Besides, we have experienced discipline from our earthly fathers and we respected them; shall we not submit ourselves all the more to the Father of spirits and receive life? For they disciplined us for a little while as seemed good to them, but he does so for our benefit, that we may share his holiness. Now all discipline seems painful at the time, not joyful. But later it produces the fruit of peace and righteousness for those trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your listless hands and your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but be healed.”

Since all authority is established by God, why are there ungodly establishments and laws?

– God gave us over (Romans 1:18-32)

“1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth by their unrighteousness, 1:19 because what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 1:20 For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, because they are understood through what has been made. So people are without excuse. 1:21 For although they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or give him thanks, but they became futile in their thoughts and their senseless hearts were darkened.”

Since all authority is established by God, why are there ungodly establishments and laws?

– God gave us over (Romans 1:18-32) (continued)

“1:22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for an image resembling mortal human beings or birds or four-footed animals or reptiles. 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the desires of their hearts to impurity, to dishonor their bodies among themselves. 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.”
Since all authority is established by God, why are there ungodly establishments and laws?

- God gave us over (Romans 1:18-32) (continued)

"1:26 For this reason God gave them over to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged the natural sexual relations for unnatural ones, 1:27 and likewise the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed in their passions for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. 1:28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what should not be done."

- Romans 13:1-7 Interpretation

• #1: Paul is advocating for obeying man’s law regardless of agreement with God’s instructions and character (unconditional civil obedience)
  - Civil obedience is the topic addressed
  - Disobeying God is never promoted by Paul
  - Disobeying God is never promoted in Scripture
  - This interpretation states too little

• #2: Paul is advocating for obeying man’s law when it agrees with God’s instructions and character (conditional civil obedience)
  - Since Paul and Scripture never promote disobeying God, the civil obedience must be “conditional”
  - This interpretation “conditions” the 1st interpretation

• #3: Paul is advocating for obeying man’s law when it agrees with God’s instructions and character but disobeying man’s law when it disagrees with God’s instructions or character (conditional civil obedience + conditional civil disobedience)
Romans 13:1-7 Interpretation

• #3: Paul is advocating for obeying man’s law when it agrees with God’s instructions and character but disobeying man’s law when it disagrees with God’s instructions or character (conditional civil obedience + conditional civil disobedience)
  – This interpretation “adds” to the 2nd interpretation
  – Civil obedience discussed and promoted
  – Civil disobedience is not addressed (argument from silence)
  – This interpretation “adds” too much to this text
  – “Although this interpretation is too additive for this text, is this an accurate principle when combined with Scripture?”

Examples of Civil Disobedience

• Daniel + 3 Friends
  – Obey God’s dietary laws rather than eat the King’s food (Daniel 1:8-14)
  – “But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the royal delicacies or the royal wine. He therefore asked the overseer of the court officials for permission not to defile himself. Then God made the overseer of the court officials sympathetic to Daniel. But he responded to Daniel, ‘I fear my master the king. He is the one who has decided your food and drink. What would happen if he saw that you looked malnourished in comparison to the other young men your age? If that happened, you would endanger my life with the king!’”

Examples of Civil Disobedience

• Daniel + 3 Friends
  – (continued)
  – “Daniel then spoke to the warden whom the overseer of the court officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: ‘Please test your servants for ten days by providing us with some vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who are eating the royal delicacies; deal with us in light of what you see.’ So the warden agreed to their proposal and tested them for ten days.”

Examples of Civil Disobedience

• Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego
  – Refused to worship the King’s idol (Daniel 3:17-19)
  – “If our God whom we are serving exists, he is able to rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and he will rescue us, O king, from your power as well. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we don’t serve your gods, and we will not pay homage to the golden statue that you have erected.”
  – 1. Obeyed God’s instructions rather than man’s contradictory law even in the face of death
  – 2. Trusted God with the outcome

Examples of Civil Disobedience

• Daniel
  – Continued to pray even though prohibited with punishment of death in the lion’s den (Daniel 6:10-11)
  – “When Daniel realized that a written decree had been issued, he entered his home, where the windows in his upper room opened toward Jerusalem. Three times daily he was kneeling and offering prayers and thanks to his God just as he had been accustomed to do previously. Then those officials who had gone to the king came by collusion and found Daniel praying and asking for help before his God.”
Examples of Civil Disobedience

• Daniel (continued)
  – “So they approached the king and said to him, “Did you not issue an edict to the effect that for the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human other than to you, O king, would be thrown into a den of lions?” The king replied, “That is correct, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be changed.” Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the edict that you issued. Three times daily he offers his prayer.”

Examples of Civil Disobedience

• Daniel
  – 1. Obeyed God’s instructions rather than man’s contradictory law even in the face of death
  – 2. Trusted God with the outcome

Examples of Civil Disobedience

• Peter and John
  – Spreading the Good News and ministering to others (Acts 4:1-12, 17-21)
  – “While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests and the commander of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, angry because they were teaching the people and announcing in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. So they seized them and put them in jail until the next day (for it was already evening). But many of those who had listened to the message believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. On the next day, their rulers, elders, and experts in the law came together in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others who were members of the high priest’s family.”

Examples of Civil Disobedience

• Peter and John
  – “After making Peter and John stand in their midst, they began to inquire, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, replied, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today for a good deed done to a sick man – by what means this man was healed – let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, this man stands before you healthy. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, that has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among people by which we must be saved.”

Examples of Civil Disobedience

• Peter and John
  – “But to keep this matter from spreading any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” And they called them in and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, “Whether it is right before God to obey you rather than God, you decide, for it is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard.” After threatening them further, they released them, for they could not find how to punish them on account of the people, because they were all praising God for what had happened.
  – 1. Obeyed God’s instructions rather than man’s contradictory law
  – 2. Trusted God with the outcome

Examples of Civil Disobedience

• Jesus
  – Man-made religious law (Sadducees, Pharisees, Scribes)
  – Denounced by Jesus
  – God’s instruction
  – Perfect obedience
    – 2 Corinthians 5:21 – “God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the righteousness of God.”
    – 1 Peter 2:21-24 – “For to this you were called, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving an example for you to follow in his steps. He committed no sin, he was defiled no, found in his mouth. When he was maligned, he did not answer back; when he suffered, he threatened no retaliation, but committed himself to God who judges justly. He bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we may cease from sinning and live for righteousness. By his wounds you were healed.”
Examples of Civil Disobedience

• Jesus
  – Civil Law
    • Temple tax (Matthew 17:24-27)
      – Even though Jesus was not obligated to pay the tax, He did so (coin in fish mouth)
    • Government Tax (Mark 12:13-17)
      – Man’s law not contradict God’s instructions

Examples of Civil Disobedience

• Jesus
  – 1. Obeyed God’s instructions rather than man’s contradictory law even when faced with death on a cross
  – 2. Trusted God with the outcome
  – 3. When man’s law did not contradict God’s instruction, He followed both.

Christian Pharmacist’s Actions

Conditional Civil Obedience + Conditional Civil Disobedience

• Obey man’s law when it agrees with God’s instructions and character
• Obey man’s law when it does not disagree with God’s instructions or character
• Obey God’s instructions even when it disagrees with man’s law
  • Prayerfully – ensure there is a true contradiction rather than a mere pet peeve
  • Respectfully and wisely – alternative, trial
  • Trusting God with the outcome even if experience unpleasant temporal personal & professional outcomes while acknowledging God is in control

Christian Pharmacist’s Expectations

• Persecution
  – Sending out of the disciples (Mt. 10:16-25)
  – Sending out of the disciples (Jn. 15:18-27)
  – Unwillingness to hear the truth (2 Tim. 4:3)
• Ultimately vindicated and rewarded even if temporal harm
  – Heb. 11:35-40
• God’s presence through the persecution
  – Mt. 28:20
  – Heb. 13:5-6

Christian Pharmacist’s Preparation

• Proper clothing
  – Armor of God (Eph. 6)
  – Put on the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 13:14)
• Proper perspective
  – Fear God not man (Mt. 10:26-33)
• Proper speech
  – Preach the Good News at all times (2 Tim. 4:2)
• Proper dedication & education
  – Spend time with God in study and prayer (Mk. 3:13-15; Acts 4:13)
Personal Christian Pharmacist’s Plan

Personal Activity #1
• Prayerfully develop a plan to practice as a Christian pharmacist concerning civil disobedience.

Questions?

Learning Assessment Questions
1. Civil disobedience may be defined as the refusal to obey laws as a way of forcing the government to do or change something (objective 1).
   A. True
   B. False

Learning Assessment Questions
2. Personal and professional results of performing civil disobedience may include (objective 2):
   A. Loss of employment
   B. Loss of finances
   C. Lack of promotion
   D. Loss of pharmacist license
   E. All of the above

Learning Assessment Questions
3. Civil disobedience is not addressed in pharmacy’s ethical statements (objective 3).
   A. True
   B. False
Learning Assessment Questions

4. Examples of civil disobedience applicable to the profession of pharmacy are present in the Old and New Testaments (objective 4).

   A. True
   B. False

Learning Assessment Questions

5. State one component of your plan to practice as a Christian pharmacist concerning civil disobedience (objective 5).

Learning Assessment Answers

1. A
2. E
3. B
4. A

Further Resources

1. NET Bible (https://net.bible.org/#/bible/Matthew+1:1)
2. APhA (http://www.pharmacist.com/)
3. CPFI (http://www.cpfi.org/)

Thank You!