

## **Anarchy and the Kingdom of God**

Romans 13:1-7

**TEXT/INTRO:** No doubt you have noticed that the news isn't about COVID19 anymore but about the out-of-control protests and carnage that has left our nation in upheaval and totally confused. This mess isn't going to be easy to resolve. Of course, you also know that this mess began as a protest against a horrific act by a white cop against an unarmed black man that left the man, George Floyd, dead. Unfortunately, protests that were legitimate and righteous in the beginning quickly devolved into what we're witnessing now. The only word to describe the mobs and their behavior is *anarchy*. And anarchy means, absence of government **b**: a state of lawlessness or political disorder due to the absence of governmental authority. And that describes America at this moment. Why have so many mayors and governors and senators just rolled over and let the anarchists have their way?

I have said this before that the world has gone insane, and I said that long before this latest stuff. But the truth is man's insanity is merely coming to the surface. Insanity lies just beneath the surface in all of us. Sometimes it just takes a lot to bring it out...and sometimes it doesn't. The family of Mr. Floyd and their attorney have been very calm and civil as have been thousands of the protesters. They understand it's always bad practice to repay evil with evil. My hat is off to them. This sermon is not about them, even while it is.

Can you imagine what the United States would be like without law enforcement? The "Defund the Police!" adherents think they can, and they want to see it realized now. According to an op-ed in the New York Times, 6/12/20, defund the police in truth means "get rid of the police." Insanity. Their logic is, "no police, no crime." **Yes, We Mean Literally Abolish the Police** Because reform won't happen. **By Mariame Kaba** The author, Mariame Kaba, is a black socialist and her agenda reflects that ideology. Her arguments are excellent as far as police brutality and abuse of their power is concerned, her suggested solutions are ludicrous.

In June 2018, she wrote the foreword for, *As Black As Resistance: Finding the Conditions for Liberation*, a critical book by Zoé Samudzi and William C. Anderson that describes the importance of Black anarchist and abolitionist principles to contemporary social justice movements.<sup>[14]</sup> Her article is worth the read if one wants to know.

This is better. It's a quote from an article written by a professor named Brian Brenberg and published on FoxNews: "Embattled communities need policing that treats everyone with equal dignity and that delivers the security and stability that underpins the opportunity to build a livelihood. Justice and economic vibrancy aren't at odds with each other — they depend on each other."

The world is full of lawbreakers and wanna-be lawbreakers and the public needs law enforcers to bring them to justice. Every night we get an alarm from our neighbors about young males roaming through our neighborhoods checking car doors. If the defunders have their way, may I call one of them if one of these thugs breaks into my car or my home?

Law enforcement officers aren't machines, they're fallible human beings who must be carefully vetted and then watched even more carefully after they put on their shields. An old Englishman statesman once said, "Power tends to corrupt; absolute power tends to corrupt absolutely." Law enforcement officers prove that to be true.

Cops must be held accountable when they break their vows to serve and protect. No one is above the law and cops must be punished to the full extent of the same law that the rest of us are held to. But without them it would be pure bedlam.

Now, church, here's what God has to say about all that:

*2 Timothy 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.*

<sup>2</sup> ***For men will be lovers of self***, the apostle is talking about extreme narcissists, not mere narcissism, but people who are in love with themselves almost to the exclusion of everyone else. Have you noticed how many millions of people love taking "selfies" these

days? And what do they do with these selfies? They publish them for the whole world to see. “Hey, look at me. Aren’t I the cat’s meow. Da bomb.”

Also, and don’t miss this, this is how Paul introduces this section. **For**...*men will be lovers of self. Isn’t that odd? One of the primary causes of last days difficulties will be man’s love of himself.* Do you see it? I chuckled when I saw it just a few minutes ago. Think about it. How can it be that in these last days life will become more difficult for all of those around because people love themselves? Well, lets look at the word translated “lovers of self.”

It’s **φίλαυτος**, and it means fond of oneself, self-loving, selfish, ‘with affection concentrated on oneself’, *self-interested, and it includes the idea of in exclusion to others.* It brings to mind movie stars and rappers and models who have some serious affection for themselves. And if you multiply that a million fold, folks, we’ve got a pretty scary world to live in.

On the other hand, we have all seen a lot of pretty awesome folks risking their lives and welfare to help strangers out of scary situations. Obviously, Paul isn’t saying the whole world is going to be extreme narcissists, but it will be so far-spread that it will effect the world’s population.

And second, second on his list,  
<sup>2</sup> *lovers of money, which is idolatry, Eph. 5:3-5; Col. 3:3-5, which is what the prosperity preachers are teaching as God’s will for everybody.* Have I showed you this book I bought for a dollar? **The prosperity preachers are teaching their followers to do the very thing Scripture forbids, love and lust after riches.** <sup>9</sup> *But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.*

<sup>10</sup> *For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

## 4

<sup>11</sup> *But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. (1 Tim. 6:9-11 NAU)*

And back to 2 Timothy 3:

*boastful, arrogant,* This is another tip for those who may follow prosperity teachers, they like to brag about their wealth. I saw Oral Roberts ordaining the Copelands way back in the early '70's and he said, "Silver and gold have I plenty." And everyone just cackled.

*revilers, disobedient to parents,* **that means they will have rejected everything good their parents taught them growing up, "what do they know? They're old and can't even use a cell phone. They lived their lives and did what they wanted to do, now it's our turn.**

**Besides, no one believes in Jesus anymore."** *ungrateful, unholy,*

<sup>3</sup> *unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips,* **without self-control, think of the looters and thugs stealing and burning and breaking storefront glass with hammers and benches so they can get inside and take whatever they want. I can't say they're acting like animals, I don't want to insult animals. But they are clearly out of control.**

*brutal, haters of good,*

<sup>4</sup> *treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,*

<sup>5</sup> *holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power,* **they claim to be godly without god. "I'm a good person and I don't believe in God. I don't need God to be good."** *Avoid such men as these. (2 Tim. 3:1-5 NAU)*

What happened to George Floyd is just one incident that could have been easily overlooked and dismissed because he was a black man being arrested by white cops. I'm glad it wasn't. But those criminals who took advantage of the situation and carried their criminal instincts to the extreme serve only to make our nations systemic racism worse.

As simplistic as it may sound, and I know it does, the only answer to racism is the intervention of God into the lives of individual sinners

by the Holy Spirit drawing them to faith in Jesus. And even then, it ain't easy.

In Jesus' name. Amen.