The Theological and Practical Perspective

on Civil Disobedience

How can we recognize a situation where obedience to human beings means disobedience to God (Acts 5:29)? How does civil disobedience correlate with Biblical direction to honor human authorities? In this talk, Sergiy Tymchenko will share his thoughts and experience on how Christians can be agents of love and peace even when they decide that the only way they can be faithful to truth is to take the route of civil disobedience.

**Sergiy Tymchenko** founded and directs REALIS Christian Center in Kiev, Ukraine. He is also part of the leadership team of Spring of Hope, a church he helped to plant back in 1997. Sergiy has taught at Donetsk Christian University, the Eastern-European Seminary for the Education of Leaders, and National Pedagogical Dragomanov University in Ukraine. He studied at Denver Seminary before getting his Ph.D. degree at London School of Theology in the area of Sociopolitical Ethics. He and his wife,​ Irina,​ have four adult children.

1. **Theological perspectives on civil disobedience**
2. Two responses to the totalitarian challenge in the first century
3. Obedience when it is possible (Rom. 13:1-7)
4. Suffering and death when it is necessary (Rev. 2:8-13)
5. Four responses to the totalitarian challenge in the XX century
6. Critical cooperation
7. Dignified resistance
8. Venture of responsibility
9. Responsibility for the truth
10. **Civil disobedience as Christian political advocacy**
11. Purpose and forms of Christian’s civil disobedience
12. Lessons from Soviet Evangelicals
13. Lessons from Ukraine’s “Revolution of Dignity”

***Suggested Readings:***

[Stephen Mott](https://philpapers.org/s/Stephen%20Mott), Biblical Ethics and Social Change, ch. 8, 2nd ed. Oxford University Press, USA, 2011.

J. Philip Wogaman, Christian Perspectives on Politics, ch. 13, revised and expanded, Wetsminster John Knox Press, USA, 2000.

Oliver O’Donovan, The Ways of Judgment, ch. 8, William B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, MI / Cambidge, UK, 2005.