

Criteria for Assessing Whether a Proposed Human Law is Legitimate

The proposed law:

- Is derived from God's Law as summarized in the Ten Commandments (Dt 4.13; 5.6-22; Ps 96.10; Acts 17.24-31; Rom 1.18-32; 13.1-7)
- Is not contrary or contradictory to God's Law (Ex 20.3; Lev 18.4; Acts 4.19; 5.29)
- Is enacted in a domain of jurisdiction allocated to government by God (Dt 16.18; Rom 13.1-7; 1 Pet 2.13, 14) and does not encroach on the responsibilities of the other God-ordained institutions of the Family (Eph 4.28; 2 Thes 3.10) and the Church (Acts 6.1-7; 1 Cor 16.1-3) .
- Is subordinate to God's law (Ps 2; Dan 4.25; 5.21)
- Follows the example of the case laws in Leviticus and Deuteronomy
- Preserves law and order (Rom 13.1-5)
- Permits citizens to live peaceful and quiet lives (1 Tim 2.2)
- Allows for just retribution and facilitates restitution (Rom 13.4; 1 Pet 2.14)
- Deters immoral behaviour and encourages evil men to respect others' rights (Rom 13.3; 1 Pet 2.14)
- Does not play favourites or create inequities (Ex 23.3; Lev 19.15; Jam 2.9)
- Does not make the citizens dependent on the State (2 Thes 3.10; 1 Tim 5.8)
- Does not encourage the citizens to act irresponsibly (1 Thes 4.11)
- Does not set a precedent for other similar laws that would be absurd
- Is required as a law, because there is no alternative for dealing with the unjust behaviour of wicked men
- Is administrable and enforceable