

The Bible clearly instructs God's people to obey the governing authorities and pray for those in positions of authority so they can live a peaceful life.

However, some Bible students have been seriously troubled by these portions of Scripture. What about those governments that have committed abominable crimes throughout history? Were those who defined themselves Christians justified in their participation of these acts based on what the Bible says?

Obviously not! A further examination of Scripture shows that Christians are to obey and submit to the governing authorities only to the extent that these authorities do not teach or force you to do something the Bible forbids, or teach or forbid you to do something the Bible commands! What we have said about secular authority would also apply to that within the Local Church!