

We Believe in Obeying the Laws of the Government Where We Live

Read the following scenario.

Dalia is serving a mission in a place where the government will not allow sharing the gospel outside a church building. She feels frustrated because she knows there are people in the city who would accept the gospel of Jesus Christ if she could talk more openly about it. She is considering discreetly talking to people in the streets to teach them about the Savior.

- How would you respond to this situation?

Read the following materials, thinking about how they might help Dalia understand what Heavenly Father would have her do.

Doctrine and Covenants 58:21–22

Articles of Faith 1:12

1 Timothy 2:1–3

To see how the Savior responded to potential conflict between government and religion, read Matthew 22:15–22 and the following statement by President Dallin H. Oaks of the First Presidency:



While all believers revere divine law, most also acknowledge that civil law is also ordained of God. The Lord Jesus Christ directed, “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s” (Matthew 22:21). So taught, we must, to the extent possible, obey *both* systems of law. When there are apparent conflicts, we must seek to harmonize them. When they are truly irreconcilable, we should join with others of like mind in striving to change the civil law to accommodate the divine. In all events, we must be very measured before ever deciding—in the rarest of circumstances—to disregard one in favor of the other. (Dallin H. Oaks, “The Boundary between Church and State” [address given at the Second Annual Sacramento Court/Clergy Conference, Oct. 20, 2015], newsroom.ChurchofJesusChrist.org)

Answer the following questions.

- What did you learn that could help Dalia understand that she should honor the laws where she is serving?
- Why do you think obeying the law where you live is a principle of Jesus Christ’s gospel?