Should We Always Submit?

The Gospel of Luke has a dual purpose: it first provides a chronological treatment of the life of Christ, to the end that a person has a solid foundation for faith in Him; it also provides proof to governing officials that Christianity is not a political threat. Both purposes are relevant today. We believe in the Jesus of Scripture, and our faith in Jesus and His coming kingdom does not constitute a threat to the political powers of our day. The NT authors consistently command Christians to be in submission to the ruling authorities—even godless, corrupt ones. Being a Culture Contrarian may mean you disagree with evangelicals who insist it is God’s will for you to storm the Capitol. These are interesting times. Presidential directives conflict with our Biblical directives. Do we submit and obey when the governmental command directly contradicts Scripture? Acts 4 provides an answer to that: “We must obey God rather than man.” But they then suffered the consequences of their disobedience; they did not take up weapons to overthrow the government. On the other hand, history tells us an armed defense may be the difference between life and death: consider the Waldensians and even the War of Independence in 1776. Luke writes his message in a time of Roman persecution of Christianity; it is his reasoned statement that Christians can be good citizens and that Christianity is not intended to compete with Rome. Governments appear to be demonically fueled to destroy those who worship and serve our Savior. That force against us helps keep our focus on the future—the time when Jesus is King of Kings and rules the world with a rod of iron. Maranatha.