



Christ Or Caesar?

LUKE 20:19-26

I. Discussing Politics Is Controversial

¹⁹ The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. ²⁰ So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor. ²¹ So they asked him, "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God. ²² Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?"

I. Discussing Politics Is Controversial

- A. What Is More Controversial Than Religion And Politics Is Religion In Politics (19-22; Mk 12:13)
- B. Our Heavenly Citizenship Is A Greater Priority Than Our Political Party

We Are Eternal Citizens Of Heaven

- **Philippians 3:20** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

We Are Temporary Residents On Earth

- **1 Peter 2:11** Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul

We Are Waiting To Go To Our Eternal Home

- **Hebrews 11:10** for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

We Are Heaven's Ambassadors Seeking To Reconcile The World To Christ

- **2 Corinthians 5:20** Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

II. Differentiating The Secular And The Spiritual Kingdoms Is Essential

²³ But he perceived their craftiness, and said to them, ²⁴ "Show me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's." ²⁵ He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²⁶ And they were not able in the presence of the people to catch him in what he said, but marveling at his answer they became silent.

Jesus Affirms The Separation Of Church & State

3 Views

- Absolute Separation
- Hierarchy Model
- Separate But Equal

Jesus And Paul Call Believers To Submit To The Government

- **Romans 13:1-2** ¹ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.
² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

Jesus And Paul Call Believers To Submit To The Government

- **1 Peter 2:13** Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake

Peter Demonstrated The Exception Of Civil Disobedience

Acts 5:27-32 ²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "**We must obey God rather than men.**"

Peter Demonstrated The Exception Of Civil Disobedience

Acts 5:27-32 ³⁰ The God of our fathers **raised** Jesus, whom you **killed** by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God **exalted** him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give **repentance** to Israel and **forgiveness** of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who **obey** him.”

Civil Disobedience: When Man's Law Conflicts With God's Law, We Are To Obey God

3 Views:

- Anarchism: Civil Disobedience Is Always Right
- Radical Patriotism: Civil Disobedience Is Never Right
- Biblical Submissionism: Disobedience To Government Is Sometimes Right

Biblical Incidences Of Civil Disobedience

- Hebrew midwives refused to kill innocent babies (Ex 1-2)
- Rahab hid spies from Jericho's authorities (Josh 2)
- Obadiah hid prophets from the murderous Jezebel (1 Kings 18)
- Esther broke the king's decree to save her people (Esth 4)
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to worship the golden image (Dan 3)
- Peter & John resisted the government's order to stop preaching the Gospel (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29)
- Tribulation saints will stand against the Beast (Revelation 13)

Conclusion

- Unify With The Church As A Citizen Of Heaven (Phil 3:20)
- Submit To The Government In Faithfulness To God (Rom 13:1-8; 1 Pet 2:13)
- Stand Up For God's Truth And The Gospel When The Government Is Wrong (Acts 5:29)
- Pray For Your Leaders (1 Tim 2:1-2)