

Rendering to Government and to God

Matthew 22:15-22

Introduction:

- Our government was formed from years of careful thought.
 1. Church and government could not be the same.
 2. The government must be based on Christian principles
 - a. Religious freedom
 - b. All men are created equal.
 - c. Every person has certain God-given rights (life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness).
- With the restrictions mandated due to Covid-19, questions arise:
 1. How must churches view mandates that restrict meetings?
 2. How do we know when government oversteps its bounds?
 3. How should God and government relate?
- The answer:
 1. Not found in human opinions.
 2. Revealed by Scripture. – Listen and obey.

Understanding the passage (Matt 22:15-22)

- The Pharisees cooperate with the Herodians in attempting to tempt Jesus in His own words (v. 15)
 1. Pharisees – the religious leaders of the Jews
 2. Herodians – a pagan group wanting to preserve King Herod's dynasty as the ruling power over the Jews as given by Rome.
- The Pharisees and the Herodians come up to Jesus
 1. They challenge Jesus to make it appear that they trusted Him as being one who would resolve a controversy (v. 16).
 2. They ask Him an either-or question, thinking that no matter how He answered they could use it against Him (v. 17)
 - a. If Jesus answered that it was lawful to pay the personal tax to Caesar, they could turn the challenge against Him.
 - b. If Jesus answered that it was unlawful to pay the personal tax to Caesar, they could call it treason.
- Jesus answers the question in an unexpected way (v. 21) –
Render to Caesar the things that are his and to God the things that are His.

We must render to both government and God

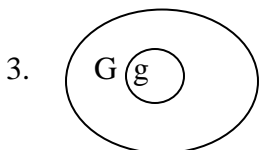
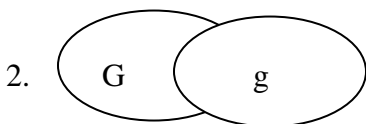
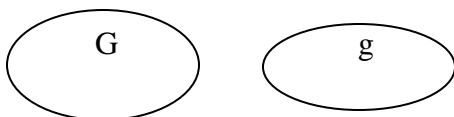
- If we only render to one and not the other, we will suffer

consequences.

1. Refusing to pay property taxes – you will lose your property.
 2. Refusing to live by the mandates of Governor Whitmer – it is a misdemeanor punishable by fine and/or jail time.
- God has ordained ALL government (Rom 13:1) – to maintain order in society (1 Tim 2:1,2)
 1. God has ordained the authority of Governor Whitmer.
 2. The mandates she has given are not an abuse of power.

How do we render to God what belongs to Him?

- Using circles (one for God and one for government), which picture best represents the biblical picture of how God and government relate (see Ps 24:1)?



- The word translated as *render* (*pay, pay back*) basically means to do something to fulfill an obligation or expense.

 1. God gave Adam and Eve stewardship
 - a. Over His authority (Gen 1:28)
 - b. Over His gifts (Gen 2:5)
 2. When we exercise our stewardship in a way that lives up to God's expectations, we are rendering to Him what is His.
 - a. Husbands loving their wives (Eph 5:25)
 - 1) If husbands love their wives unconditionally, they are rendering to God what is His (doing as He expects).
 - 2) If husbands don't love their wives as God says, there will be consequences.

- b. Parents raising their kids (Eph 6:4)
 - 1) If parents raise their kids in God's w_____, they are rendering to God what is His (doing as He expects).
 - 2) If parents n_____ their kids, there will be consequences.
 - c. Kids responding to their parents (Eph 6:1)
 - 1) If kids h_____ their parents, they are rendering to God what is His (doing as He expects).
 - 2) If kids d_____ their parents, there will be consequences.
3. Learn what God expects of you in every area of your life and live up to that expectation – that is rendering to Him what is His.

How do we render to government what belongs to it?

●Romans 13:7 gives examples of rendering government what is due: taxes, f_____ (i.e. respect), and honor

1. When we pay taxes we are rendering to government what belongs to it.
2. When we r_____ our leaders, we are rendering to government what belongs to it.

●What if our tax money is used for unethical purposes (e.g. embryonic stem cell research)?

1. God holds government responsible for how it uses taxes.
2. God holds each citizen responsible for what one stands for and what one stands against.

●If government mandates us to disobey God, then we must o_____ God rather than man.

1. The Governors mandate forbidding all public meetings does NOT apply to churches (exceptions are given for health and safety; believers gathering together is for s_____ health).
2. The Governor's mandate to practice social distancing DOES apply to how churches meet.
3. We can still meet for public worship and so render to God what is His (Heb 10:24,25) but use all the necessary precautions mandated by the Governor and so render the respect that belongs to her.