

3. Application

- **Pay our taxes even when the government doesn't act in Christian ways.** God has established the government over us for the common good of society to keep evil in check. We benefit from the good of our government even when there is evil in our government.
- **Pray for our leaders that they would make good and wise choices.**
- **Go out of our way to do good in society.**
- **Get involved in our government to change what is not glorifying to God.**

- **Love God the Father with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.**
- **Love our neighbors as ourselves.** Always go out of our way to do good to others who are created in God's image.
- **Place our faith and trust in Jesus.**

Life Group Questions

1. Who were the Pharisees and Herodians? How did they work together to try and trap Jesus? Why was Jesus' response fitting and effective?
2. One of the benefits of living in a free country is that we have the right to different opinions. We can be passionate about a sports team, a business, or a political affiliation. While we are free to express our opinions, as followers of Jesus, we need to be careful to do that in a way which is respectful and loving. How do the following verses shape the way we communicate with those we may disagree? James 1:26-27, James 3:9-12, Proverbs 15:1, Psalm 19:14
3. What insights does Romans 13:1-7 give us about how we are to conduct ourselves as citizens of the United States no matter what political party we affirm?
4. What are common ways people resist the government when they don't agree? What is the downside of that resistance? What is the motivating reason for most people resisting the government? What is the best way for people to work through difficulties with the government?
5. Peter challenged Christians to be known for doing good in society. What are ways CrossWinds can do good in our community? Email your ideas to Pastor Kurt if you have good ones! ktruck@me.com
6. While we owe the government our taxes, good citizenship, and our prayers, more importantly we owe God our lives. Pastor Kurt talked about loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and loving our neighbors as ourselves. What does that look like in everyday living? What else do we owe God that we should give Him?
7. Which point from this message or Life Group study is the most important for you to remember?

Mark 12:13-17 – Should I Pay My Taxes?

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And they were seeking to arrest him but feared the people, for they perceived that he had told the parable against them. So they left him and went away.

Mark 12:12 (ESV)

And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. Mark 12:13 (ESV)

And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God...." Mark 12:14 (ESV)

"...Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" Mark 12:14 (ESV)

After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. Acts 5:37 (ESV)

But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." Mark 12:15 (ESV)

And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's." Mark 12:16 (ESV)

Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at him. Mark 12:17 (ESV)

1. Give to Caesar the things that are Caesars.

A. God raises up governments, even unjust ones.

- God has given us our government.

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.... Romans 13:1 (ESV)

He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; Daniel 2:21 (ESV)

"The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men." Daniel 4:17 (ESV)

- Those who resist the government, resist an authority God has established.

Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. Romans 13:2 (ESV)

- If we are doing good, we should not need to fear the government.

For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval... Romans 13:3 (ESV)

- God gives us earthly government as a gift of his common grace for our good.

...for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Romans 13:4 (ESV)

For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. Romans 13:6–7 (ESV)

B. We are to pray for our government.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high

positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior... 1 Timothy 2:1–3 (ESV)

C. We are to be known for doing good in society, not being the rebels of society.

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 1 Peter 2:13–15 (ESV)

D. When should we resist the government?

- When the government asks us to violate a command of God.

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29 (ESV)

But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. Exodus 1:17 (ESV)

- When the government asks us to violate our Christian conscience.

But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. Romans 14:23 (ESV)

2. Render to God the things that are Gods.

A. Love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment". Matthew 22:37–38 (ESV)

B. Love our neighbor as ourself.

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:39 (ESV)

C. Place our faith in Jesus to save us from our sin.

Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." John 6:28–29 (ESV)