

Taxes, Government and Pleasing God

Mark 12:13-17

- I. Question: Is it right to pay taxes – even to an unjust government (Mark 12:13-15a).
- A. The Pharisees and Herodians question Jesus (12:13).
- They were sent by others (the Sanhedrin?)
 - They flattered Jesus – pretending to respect Him.
- B. They asked Jesus if it is right to pay taxes to Caesar or not (12:14b-15a).
- They tried to trap Jesus into either opposing Caesar by saying no, or angering most people by saying yes.
- II. Answer: Yes, we must submit to human authority and to God's authority (Mark 12:15b-17)
- A. Jesus asked for a coin used for paying taxes (15b).
- B. Jesus said that people should give to Caesar what he asks and to God what He asks (16-17)

Principles of Submission to Government

1. We must submit to government – even paying taxes we don't like (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17).
2. We must obey God instead of man if a governmental decree violates God's decree (Acts 4:17-20; 5:18-29).
3. We can sometimes participate in government as believers (Joseph, Daniel, Voting for biblical values and running for office in a democracy).
4. We must pray for those in power that we can live quiet and peaceful, godly, holy life. (1 Timothy 2:1-5)

Principles of Submission to God

1. Live quiet, peaceful, godly and holy (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
2. Preach the gospel regardless of government (1 Timothy 2:3-7) remembering that Christ is with us always (Matthew 28:18-20).