

GOD AND GOVERNMENT

Pastor Dennis Clanton

Woodland Church

Sunday, June 30, 2019

“Later the leaders sent some Pharisees and supporters of Herod to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. “Teacher,” they said, “we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don't play favorites. You teach the way of God truthfully. Now tell us—is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay them, or shouldn't we?” Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, “Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin, and I'll tell you.” When they handed it to him, he asked, “Whose picture and title are stamped on it?” “Caesar's,” they replied. “Well, then,” Jesus said, “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.” His reply completely amazed them.” (Mark 12:13-17, NLT)

1. BE A GOOD CITIZEN.

“Do you want to be on good terms with the government? Be a responsible citizen and you'll get on just fine, the government working to your advantage. But if you're breaking the rules right and left, watch out. The police aren't there just to be admired in their uniforms. God also has an interest in keeping order, and he uses them to do it. That's why you must live responsibly—not just to avoid punishment but also because it's the right way to live. That's also why you pay taxes—so that an orderly way of life can be maintained. Fulfill your obligations as a citizen. Pay your taxes, pay your bills, respect your leaders.” (Romans 13:3-7, Message)

2. RESPECT THE GOVERNMENT'S SPHERE OF AUTHORITY.

“Be a good citizen. All governments are under God. Insofar as there is peace and order, it's God's order. So live responsibly as a citizen.” (Romans 13:1, Message)

“I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2, NLT)

“It lays down a clear distinction between spiritual and civil government in order to inform us that outward subjection does not prevent us from having within us a conscience free in the sight of God. In short, Christ declares that it is no violation of the authority of God or any injury done to his service if in respect of outward government the Jews obey the Romans.” John Calvin

“Jesus said, “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.” (Mark 12:17, NLT)

“Up to this point in history religion and state were everywhere intertwined. This was true of course in ancient Israel. At least in theory, Israel was a theocracy. Similarly in the pagan world most of the gods of the people were necessarily the gods of the state. When the Romans took over some new territory they arranged a god swap. They adopted some of the local gods into their own pantheon and insisted that the locals take on some of the Roman gods. But nowhere was there a state that was divorced from all gods, what we could call a secular state with state and religion occupying distinct, even if overlapping, spheres. But on the face of it this is what Jesus is advocating. Certainly the utterance of the Lord Jesus has been one of the roots, though not the only one, of longstanding and constantly evolving tensions between the church and the state across the centuries.” D. A. Carson

“My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.” (John 18:36, NLT)

“Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven: “The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.” (Revelation 11:15, NLT)

3. **THE BODY OF CHRIST IS UNIVERSAL IN SCOPE.**

“After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar, “Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!” (Revelation 7:9-10, NLT)

4. **MY ULTIMATE ALLEGIANCE IS TO GOD!**

“But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king's orders. They allowed the boys to live, too.” (Exodus 1:17, NLT)

“But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:19-20, NLT)