

• Mark 12:13-17 God or Government?

When do I submit or not to my government?

- **4 Questions posed to Jesus**

1. **11:28** — Who gives you the authority (right) to do these things?

Answer — we should all be under God's authority and not our own.

2. **12:14-15** — Should we submit to Caesar's authority or not?

1. **Answer** — Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that belong to God.

3. **12:23** — Is there a literal resurrection?

1. **Answer** — God is the God of the living - absolutely!

4. **12:28** — What is God's greatest commandment?

1. **Answer** — to love God

- Q # 2 - Political Trap - "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not"?

- Text Mark 12:13-17

- The set up (v.13-14)

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1. Since 6 A.D. Jews were forced to pay taxes directly into the emperor's treasury.

2. Three taxes imposed by Rome -

1. Ground tax — 10% grain, 20% wine and fruit

2. Income tax — 1% man's income

3. Poll tax — applied to men 12-65, women 14-65 - 1 denarius a year (day's wage)

- The question (v.15a) — So shall we pay or not pay.

8. Mark 12:15b-17 Jesus' Answer

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1. On the denarius they showed to Jesus, there was a head of Tiberius, the reigning Roman Emperor. Around his head was written the abbreviation for "Tiberius Caesar, the Divine Augustus." On the back was the title "Pontifex Maximus," declaring that Caesar was the high priest of the Roman Empire.

1. "Tiberius Denarius" Tribute Penny.

- 2.



10. Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's
- Jesus recognized earthly government

1. Paul and Peter clearly taught submission to the government

1. Rom.13:6-7 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

11. God or Government?

When do I submit or not to my government?

We are dual citizens

1. Citizens of the country we live in.
2. Also citizens of heaven. [Eph 2:19 NKJV]

distinguish — What belongs to Caesar and what belongs to God?

12. and to God the things that are God's

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1. **The things that are God's.** = Some things belong to God alone.

1. Prayer belongs to God

1. Daniel who submitted to the government, but when told he must not pray to anyone other than the king. Then, he wouldn't submit, opened his window as he had always done and prayed only to God.

2. Worship, praise, glory belong to God

1. When Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego who were also faithful workers in the government of Babylon were told to bow down to the golden image and worship — they would not bow, they stood.
2. Exodus 20:5 "you shall not bow to them or serve them."
3. [Mat 4:10 NKJV] Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

3. The Sabbath belongs to God

1. Rest comes from the Lord.

4. The Soul and Life belong to God

1. [Mat 10:28 NKJV] "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
2. [Jhn 11:25 NKJV] Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

5. The Future and the Past belong to God

1. History and hope.

6. Power and Vengeance

1. [Psa 62:11 NKJV] God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God.
2. [Psa 94:1 NKJV] 1 O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongs--O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth!

7. Salvation belongs to God:

1. [Psa 3:8 NKJV] Salvation belongs to the LORD. Your blessing is upon Your people. Selah
2. [Rev 7:10 NKJV] and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation [belongs] to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

13. You were made in God's image - give to God the things belong to God