

A photograph of a man, a woman, and a young girl looking up at a dramatic sunset sky with orange and blue clouds. The man is on the left, the woman in the middle, and the girl on the right, all with their backs to the camera, looking towards the horizon.

QUESTIONS YOU HAVE

BUT ARE AFRAID TO ASK

Questions You Have (But Are Afraid to Ask)
How Should Christians Engage Politics?
Matthew 22:15–22

We all have questions. Whether you consider yourself a Christian or not, you have questions about faith, science, culture, and ultimately your own life. We are discussing these questions at home, at work, with friends, and online. Why shouldn't we discuss these questions with our church family? The Scriptures, because of the Holy Spirit, are living and active, able to speak to questions asked 2,000 years later. So, how should Christians engage politics?

Christians have a dual responsibility to honor the state and simultaneously remain faithful to the kingdom of God.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Matthew 22:15–22

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. **16** And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. **17** Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” **18** But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? **19** Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. **20** And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” **21** They said, “Caesar's.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” **22** When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

- What are your feelings about politics generally? Do you follow politics, consider yourself political, want to talk about politics, etc?
- What do you think is the stereotype of Christians and politics? Is this stereotype helpful?
- What is political about Jesus' statement in Matthew 22:15–22?
- Jesus tells the religious and political leaders if it belongs to Caesar they should give it back to him. What do Jesus' words “render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's” mean for us today? How do we live this out in the United States of America?
- Read Romans 13:1–7. According to the apostle Paul, how should we view and understand our political leaders, regardless of whether we like them?
- Jesus also says, “render to God the things that are God's” (Matthew 22:21b). What is the point Jesus is making? What belongs to God?
- Political leaders are like us—fallen creatures. Therefore, whether intentionally or unintentionally, they don't always get things right. How should Christians respond when politicians get something wrong?
- Is there ever a time when Christians should disobey government? Why or why not?
- We shouldn't be surprised that people, including us, put too much hope in political figures and movements. How can Christians remain engaged in politics and simultaneously place their ultimate hope in God's kingdom?
- How does it make you feel to know that God's kingdom will be victorious ultimately?

- Practically speaking, how do you think Christians should be engaged in politics?
- Paul writes, “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” (1 Timothy 2:1–2). So, let’s close by praying for our leaders—local, state, and national political leaders.