

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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www.magnoliambc.org

Unit II: Fulfilling Our Obligations to Family and Community

Subject: Whose Rules Rule?

Printed Text: Mark 12: 17; Romans 13: 1, 6-8; 1 Peter 2: 13-17

Key verse: Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to GOD the things that are GOD'S. And they marvelled at him (Mark 12: 17, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

Render to Caesar and to GOD (Mark 12: 17)

You Are the Boss of Me (Romans 13: 1, 6-8)

Christian Freedom (1 Peter 2: 13-17)

Introduction:

The U.S. Constitution sets up three branches of government, legislative, Executive, and Judicial, and establishes a system of checks and balances. It is worth noting that each branch has the power to limit or influence each other, this prevents any single branch from becoming too strong. Although these balances does not always appears fair or even. Laws, executive actions and court ruling often overlap, causing raising questions about who holds the final authority. But for Christians our government rest on the shoulders of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ; who has all power, all authority, and is in total control. The LORD Jesus Christ who rules the heaven and the earth and the fulness thereof; HIS commandments are our Law, and HIS commandments shows no partialities what so ever; for HIS words shall not return back to HIM void, but shall accomplish that which it was sent out to do. This government we can count on and trust, for the LORD GOD has established it (Isaiah 9: 6-7 says, For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty GOD, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of host will perform this). So, the question that arises is, whose Rules Rule? Does GOD'S Rules Rule your life or is it the world's rules ruling your life.

Lesson Pointer # 1

- **Render to Caesar and to GOD (Mark 12: 17)**

Now, the members of the Sanhedrin were accosting Jesus Christ; this group consisted of members from the Pharisees and Sadducees, who were Jewish religious leaders. Their intend was to try and entrap Jesus Christ so they would have a valid reason to hand Jesus Christ over to Rome for treason. So, they produced a thorny question asking about taxes, because taxation was a sensitive issue at that time of Jesus Christ's ministry. The Romans required the nations that was under their control, including Judea, to pay heavy taxes that went into the emperor's treasury. So, Jesus Christ answer was, render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to GOD the things that are GOD'S. And they marvelled at him (Mark 12: 17).

Lesson Pointer # 2

- **You Are the Boss of Me (Romans 13: 1, 6-8)**

Paul spoke about how believers should relate to government, by saying, “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of GOD: the powers that be are ordained of GOD (Romans 13: 1).” We Christians should never allow the world’s government to force us to disobey GOD. Yes, we Christians are to pay taxes because the government workers need to be paid, for they are serving GOD in what they do, For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are GOD’S ministers, attending continually upon this very thing (Romans 13: 6). So, do know and understand that as a Christian we ought to give everyone what we owe them, repay everyone his dues, if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor (Romans 13: 8). This reminds me when Jesus Christ had come into Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter and asked whether his master paid tribute, and Peter said, Yes, and when he enter into the house, Jesus Christ asked Peter, Simon of whom do the king of the earth take custom or tribute? Of their own children, or of strangers? Peter answered and said of strangers, Jesus Christ said to Peter, then are the children free. Jesus Christ said lest ye should offend them, go thou to the sea and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shall find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee (Matthew 17: 24-27). LORD Jesus Christ you are the Boss of me! GOD’S Rules Rule me and my life.

Lesson Pointer # 3

- **Christian Freedom (1 Peter 2: 13-17)**

Christians are responsible for obeying the law, yes, even government laws, we Christians are to submit ourselves to every authority of man because of the LORD’s sake (1 Peter 2: 13-14). Why, because it is the Will of GOD, that with well doing we may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men (1 Peter 2: 15): Now, as being free, we Christians should never be used as a cover-up for evil, but enjoy the true freedom by obeying GOD and live as servants of GOD (1 Peter 2: 16). Peter sums up how Christian citizenship should look like by giving a four-point summary. First, Christians are to respect everyone. Second, Christians are to love the brotherhood of believers, their brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. Third, Christians are to fear GOD (to reverence and obey GOD). Fourth, Christians are to honor the King (Those whom GOD has placed in authority) (1 Peter 2: 17).

Whose Rules Rule!

Nuggets of the Lesson:

- 1) GOD knows that we Christians live in a world that is both religious and secular.
- 2) The Christians freedom is about finding balance between what is sacred and what is civil.
- 3) Jesus Christ shows believers how to balance their lives as being free.
- 4) Christians are to know and understand that social issues are secondary to the greater mission of unity in the Kingdom of GOD.
- 5) Christians are to show respect for the people who are in leadership, even when their action goes against our Biblical values.
- 6) Christians are to submit ourselves for the LORD’S sake to every human authority.