

Giving to God and Government

MATTHEW 22:15-22

Insofar as God is the foundation of all authority, He exercises that foundation because He is the author and the owner of His creation. He is the foundation upon which all other authority stands or falls.

-R.C. Sproul

I. The Challenge

II. The Correction

Into the Bible

1. In v.16 his opponents characterize Jesus as “a man of integrity”, and “one who teaches in accordance with the truth”, and “not swayed by men”. This could be seen as empty flattery, but did they have this right about Jesus? Why lead with this before asking their question?

2. James gives us a pretty clear example of being “swayed by men” in James 2:1-13. Paul also calls out the willingness to show favoritism in I Timothy 5:21. Why is favoritism specifically identified as a sin by James (v.9)? (Deuteronomy 10:17, Job 34:17-19)

Application

3. As Americans we are fiercely protective of our personal liberty. Our rights as citizens are very important to us and highly valued. So, the issue of obedience to governing authorities can pose challenges for us. Christ’s command to “render unto Caesar” is given a fuller exposition by Paul in Romans 13:1-7. Why are we to submit to earthly authorities? Read also I Peter 2:13-17.

