

To Whom Do I Obey, God or Caesar?

Matthew 22:15-22

Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. **16 And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.** 17 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? 18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? 19 Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. 20 And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? 21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, **Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.** 22 When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

Verse 21

In other words, Since you know whose coin it is, then act honestly and give it back to Caesar, also rendering to God the things that are His.

Verse 16

Master, Gr. didaskalos -- teacher

Fourfold description of Christ:

1. You are true (Gr. alethes -- without reserve, sincere, truthful, frank, honest, and genuine.
2. You teach the Way of God in truth Gr. aletheia -- without pretence, falsehood, or deceit; with sincerity of mind and purpose; without hypocrisy and lust for personal gain.
3. You are fearless. You are not afraid of men or devils and never act with dread, panic, fear, or timidity as to the outcome of what you say or do.
4. You do not court human favor or look on the appearance of any man. You have no respect of persons.

Jesus was going to obey God despite the religious community or the government.

What does the Holy Spirit tells us through Paul & Peter?

Romans 13:1-7 (NLT)

Everyone must **submit** to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. 2 So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. 3 For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. 4 The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. 5 So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience. 6 Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

1 Peter 2:13-17 (NLT)

For the Lord's sake, **submit** to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, 14 or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right. 15 It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. 16 For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. 17 Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.

Now, we must understand what He is instructing us...

hypotássō - to arrange under; to subordinate

1. Ephesians 5:22-24 (NLT) 22 For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head

of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. 24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

2. Romans 6:12

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

3. Romans 10:16

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

4. Ephesians 6:1-3 (NLT)

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. 2 “Honor (timaō) your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: 3 If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”

There is another word found 21X’s that means to literally obey...

hypakouō - to be obedient to a command.

timaō - reverence; to estimate of high value

Abortion in China

Having ended in 2015, China had a 35-year-old policy of restricting most urban families to one child. There were an estimated 13 million abortions performed, and approximately 10 million abortion pills sold (23 million, an additional 8.5 million in Ontario).[4] Induced abortions, including late-term or even after birth killing, were more common in urban areas, where couples may only have one child.[5] In rural areas, it may be permissible to have a second child if the first born is a girl and a "second-birth permit" might be granted, costing at least 4,000 yuan (CAD\$750).[6] Such children born are normally not allowed to register into government system and become "nonexistent" for the rest of their lives.

Did John, Paul & Peter always obey the government?

Peter & John

Acts 4:19-22 (NLT)

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

21 The council then threatened them further, but they finally let them go because they didn’t know how to punish them without starting a riot. For everyone was praising God 22 for this miraculous sign—the healing of a man who had been lame for more than forty years.

- Mark 13:11 (NLT) 11 But when you are arrested and stand trial, don’t worry in advance about what to say. Just say what God tells you at that time, for it is not you who will be speaking, but the Holy Spirit.
- Luke 21:14-15 (NLT) 14 So don’t worry in advance about how to answer the charges against you, 15 for I will give you the right words and such wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to reply or refute you!
- Acts 6:10 (NLT) 10 None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke.

Paul

Acts 9:22-25 (NLT)

Saul’s preaching became more and more powerful, and the Jews in Damascus couldn’t refute his proofs that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. 23 After a while (about 3 years, (Arabia)) some of the Jews (the government of Damascus) plotted together to kill him. 24 They were watching for him day and night at the city gate so they could murder him, but Saul was told about their plot. 25 So during the night, some of the other believers lowered him in a large basket through an opening in the city wall.

If it wasn’t the government trying to kill Paul, they could have gone to the government for help. Other times Paul appealed to the government...

Acts 26:28-32

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. 29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds. 30 And when

he had thus spoken, the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them: 31 And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds. 32 Then said Agrippa unto Festus, **This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.**

Here, Paul appeals to the government, in Damascus, he fled in a basket... He had co-conspirators to evade arrest and execution.

Acts 12:1-24