

Giving Our Proper Loyalty to God and Government

Luke 20:20-26

Main Idea: We have obligations both to the State and to God.

I. Jesus teaches the principle of dual obligation to the State and to God.

¹⁴ Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him. Luke 16:14 (NASB)

II. What do you owe God and the State?

God

State

Love/loyalty

Our highest love and loyalty

Limited love and loyalty

³⁷ And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE Lord YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." Matthew 22:37 (NASB)

Money/possessions

A portion to God and steward rest

Taxes and fees

⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.

⁷ Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. Romans 13:6-7 (NASB)

Honor

Worship and fear God

Honor and respect leaders

¹⁷ Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king. 1 Peter 2:17 (NASB)

Obedience

Priority obedience

Obedience to the laws

¹ Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Romans 13:1 (NASB)

¹ Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, Titus 3:1

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

1 Peter 2:13-14 (NASB)

Prayer

Pray without ceasing

Pray for leaders

¹⁷ pray without ceasing; 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NASB)

¹ First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NASB)

Truth

Believe and act on God's truth

Declare God's truth

Rights

None

Use including informed voting

³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, *saying*, "The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Therefore come out now and go in peace." ³⁷ But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out." Acts 16:36-37 (NASB)

²² They listened to him up to this statement, and *then* they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he should not be allowed to live!" ²³ And as they were crying out and throwing off their cloaks and tossing dust into the air, ²⁴ the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, stating that he should be examined by scourging so that he might find out the reason why they were shouting against him that way. ²⁵ But when they stretched him out with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman and uncondemned?" ²⁶ When the centurion heard *this*, he went to the commander and told him, saying, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman." ²⁷ The commander came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" And he said, "Yes." Acts 22:22-27 (NASB)

¹¹ "If, then, I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die; but if none of those things is *true* of which these men accuse me, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar." Acts 25:11 (NASB)

III. What are some legitimate functions of government?

A. Punish _____ and protect _____

³ For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; ⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. Romans 13:3-4 (NASB)

¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. 1 Peter 2:14 (NASB)

B. Provide for _____ without producing _____