

Our Father...

#10 Thine is the Kingdom

JESUS ON CITIZENSHIP

Mark 12:13 *And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. ¹⁴And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone’s opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?”*

¹⁵But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” ¹⁶And they brought one. And he said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to him, “Caesar’s.” ¹⁷Jesus said to them, “**Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.**” And they marveled at him.

Jesus Calls His Followers to Live as Model Citizens of Both Heaven and Earth

INCENTIVES FOR SUBMISSION BY THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- A. The authority of human government has been ordained by God Himself. *Romans 13:1*
- B. Resisting governmental authority is tantamount to resisting God Himself, since He ordained it. *Romans 13:2*
- C. Lack of submission will likely lead to negative consequences from God levied through the state. *Romans 13:4*
- D. Christians ought to submit in order to maintain a clear conscience before God. *Romans 13:5*
- E. For the sake of not hindering evangelism *1 Peter 2:12*
- F. To silence the critics of Christianity, who are looking for hypocritical Christians to justify their own rejection of Christ. *1 Peter 2:15*
- G. Submission is God’s will for His people, a characteristic of genuine servants of God. *1 Peter 2:15-16*

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP IN AN EARTHLY KINGDOM

1. **The Principle of Submission to Government Authority:** Christians, generally speaking, align themselves under civil authority in order to honor God.
2. **The Principle of an Honoring Attitude:** Christians are called to view and speak respectfully of government officials, since they are ministers of God occupying positions of authority.
3. **The Principle of Paying Taxes:** Christians are called to support the government financially by paying what is required.
4. **The Principle of Godly Influence:** Christians are to support efforts to influence lawmakers to align with God’s ordained purposes—punishing evildoers and rewarding those who do well.
5. **The Principle of Prioritized Prayer:** Christians are called to pray regularly for government leaders to establish environments conducive to declaring and demonstrating the Gospel.

Cornerstones of Good, God-Designed Human Culture

1. LIFE is a good gift from our Creator – Value It!

Genesis 2:7 *The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

2. GENDER is a good gift from our Creator – Celebrate It!

Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

3. DIGNITY is a good gift from our Creator – Express It!

Genesis 1:26 *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness....”²⁷ So God created man in his own image...*

4. WORK is a good gift from our Creator - Embrace It!

Genesis 2:15 *The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*

5. THE CREATED ORDER is a good gift from our Creator – Affirm It!

Genesis 1:28 *...”Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*

6. MARRIAGE is a good gift from our Creator – Uphold It!

Genesis 2:21 *So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh.²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.²³ The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*

7. SEXUALITY is a good gift from our Creator – Enjoy It! (with your spouse)

Genesis 2:25 *The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

8. FAMILY is a good gift from our Creator – Cherish It!

Genesis 1:28 *God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth...”*

WE ARE CITIZENS OF GOD’S KINGDOM

JESUS CHRIST LIVED THIS WAY!