

Insights from Luke

#79: "Christianity and the State"
Luke 20:19-26

Luke 20:20

“²⁰ So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, in order that they might catch Him in some statement, so that they could deliver Him to the rule and the authority of the governor.”

Luke 20:21-22

“²¹ They questioned Him, saying, ‘Teacher, we know that You speak and teach correctly, and You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth. ²² Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?’”

Income taxes
Land taxes
Import taxes
Transport taxes

Luke 20:23

“²³ But He detected their trickery and said to them....”

II Corinthians 11:3

“³ But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”

Luke 20:24

“²⁴ ‘Show Me a denarius. Whose likeness and inscription does it have?’ They said, ‘Caesar’s.’”



“Tiberius Caesar,
Son of the divine Augustus.”

Luke 20:25-26

“²⁵ And He said to them, ‘Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’ ²⁶ And they were unable to catch Him in a saying in the presence of the people; and being amazed at His answer, they became silent.”

**The statement
“render to Caesar the things
that belong to Caesar”
has become proverbial.**

Romans 13:1

“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.”

Genesis 9:5-7

“⁵ Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man’s brother I will require the life of man. ⁶ Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man. ⁷ As for you, be fruitful and multiply; Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it.”

Romans 13:2-4

“² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. 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.”

George Mason :

[A]ll men have an equal, natural and unalienable right to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that no particular sect or society of Christians ought to be favored or established by law in preference to others.

Governor Samuel Johnston:

I know but two or three States where there is the least chance of establishing any particular religion. The people of Massachusetts and Connecticut are mostly Presbyterians. In every other State, the people are divided into a great number of sects. In Rhode Island, the tenets of the Baptists, I believe, prevail. In New York, they are divided very much: the most numerous are the Episcopalians and the Baptists.

In New Jersey, they are as much divided as we are. In Pennsylvania, if any sect prevails more than others, it is that of the Quakers. In Maryland, the Episcopalians are most numerous, though there are other sects. In Virginia, there are many sects; you all know what their religious sentiments are. So in all the Southern States they differ; as also in New Hampshire. I hope, therefore, that gentlemen will see there is no cause of fear that any one religion shall be exclusively established.

Henry Abbot:

Many wish to know what religion shall be established. I believe a majority of the community are Presbyterians. I am, for my part, against any exclusive establishment; but if there were any, I would prefer the Episcopal.

Zephaniah Swift:

Christians of different denominations ought to consider that the law knows no distinction among them; that they are all established upon the broad basis of equal liberty, that they have a right to think, speak, and worship as they please, and that no sect has power to injure and oppress another. When they reflect that they are equally under the protection of the law, all will revere and love the constitution and feel interested in the support of the government. No denomination can pride themselves in the enjoyment of superior and exclusive powers and immunities.

**It is the duty of all
Christians to pay taxes
when and where levied.**

Remember who you belong to.