

Politics

Part 1 of *Taboo* series

Pastor Rich Warriner

June 19, 2016

Text: Matthew 22:15-22

The Challenge: Can you put your faith before your politics?

When I put my faith before my politics:

- I acknowledge that God is in control.

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Romans 13:1-2

- I accept my responsibilities to government while keeping them subject to my responsibilities to God.

So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. Jesus

- I base my political engagement on Jesus' model of cultural engagement.

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

1 Peter 2:11-14

- I will follow the wisdom of godly interactions with people I disagree with.

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 15:1

Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances.

Proverbs 25:11 NASB

- I choose to be a learner and not a critic.

Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance.

Proverbs 1:5

- I commit to knowing God's platform more than man's platform.

The Conundrum of Jesus: In terms of justice, Jesus is more conservative than the greatest conservative - in terms of grace, Jesus is more liberal than the greatest liberal.

Tim Keller

- I acknowledge that the biggest problem in the world is not a political problem but a heart problem.

Next Steps

Take some time to answer the following questions with your spouse, children, or small group...

- Do you or do you not enjoy the election season? Why or why not?
- Read Romans 13. What does it mean to "be subject to"? How does that work if the leadership is not godly?
- What does it mean to you to put your faith before your politics?
- How do you typically respond to people you disagree with politically? How would your response change if it was based out of love for God & others?
- Did Rich's message prompt any questions about the topic of politics? What questions are in the forefront of your mind as the election approaches? (*We are not looking for answers - just the questions!*)
- What do you need prayer for today?