

TARPOO



BREAKING
THE SILENCE
ON TOUGH
TOPICS

Part 1: Politics

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The Challenge

Can you put your faith above your politics?

Mark 12:13-17

¹³ Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words. ¹⁴ They came to him and said, “Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? ¹⁵ Should we pay or shouldn’t we?”

But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. “Why are you trying to trap me?” he asked. “Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” ¹⁶ They brought the coin, and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

¹⁷ Then Jesus said to them, “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.”

And they were amazed at him.

The Moral of a Politically Charged Conversation

Whose image do you bear?

When I put my faith above my politics:

I acknowledge 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 refuse to relinquish influence or relationship for the sake of being right

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

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” – Matthew 22:37-39

I will follow the wisdom of godly interactions

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

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

Great questions to ask: How did you arrive at your position?

Have you always seen it that way?

Do you know them?

Where did you get that from?

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

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the Lord.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts. – Isaiah 55:8-9

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.
– Timothy Keller**

Small Group Questions

- 1) Do you or do you not enjoy the election season? Why or why not?
- 2) What kind of image do you believe Jesus wants you to bear during an election season?
- 3) Read Romans 13. What does it mean to “be subject to”? How does that work if the leadership is not godly?
- 4) What does it mean to you to put your faith above your politics?
- 5) Did Grant’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!
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?