

Powers Colliding

Luke 20:19-26

How should Christians relate to the state?

NOT THIS:

OR THIS:

BUT THIS:

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

1. Read Luke 20:19-26 together.
2. Discuss the two errors Chris mentioned about how we tend to relate to the state. What is wrong with each? Which of the two are you more prone to? Why?
3. Think about Jesus' statement, "Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar." What are some things that belong to Caesar/the state? Are you a) withholding something that should be given? b) giving something that shouldn't be?
4. Think about the statement, "Give to God the things that belong to God." What are some things that belong to God? What are some things that you are withholding from God?
5. Jesus points to Caesar's image on the coin which signifies Caesar's ownership. Think of the image-bearers of God all around you. How might you be using someone for your own purposes? What opportunities do you have to "give them back" to God and honor them appropriately?

To read Tim Keller's article in the New York Times that Chris mentioned, Google "Tim Keller Two-Party System."