



## The Divine Economy

Matthew 17:24-27

### Kicking It Off:

Can you share a moment when you had to navigate a tricky conversation or situation that involved a clash of beliefs or values? How did you handle it?

### Key Objectives:

We have three key objectives to guide our discussion:

#### 1. Explore the Complexity of Offense in Christian Life

Our first objective centers on understanding the nature of offense in a Christian context. What makes the gospel inherently offensive, and how should we navigate situations where our beliefs might offend others? Is there a difference between causing offense and being offensive? We'll delve into the balance between standing firm in our convictions while also being respectful and non-offensive when possible.

#### 2. Discuss the Tension Between Submission to God and Earthly Authorities

Next, we'll examine what it means to submit to God's will in a world with human governance systems. How do we reconcile Paul's teachings in Romans 13 with acts of 'holy rebellion' in the Bible, like those of Daniel and his friends? Can submission to God ever appear as rebellion to earthly authorities? We aim to dissect this complex relationship and understand what true submission to God's will looks like.

#### 3. To Discuss Living in Freedom as Servants of God

Lastly, we'll talk about the concept of living freely under God's grace. How does this freedom manifest in our daily interactions, choices, and relationships? Is it merely a license to do as we please, or is it a call to live as servants of God, actively reflecting His character and will? We'll explore what it means to live a life of freedom that is grounded in a relationship with God, rather than a list of do's and don'ts.

### Discussion:

1. How do you think Jesus balanced truth and obligation when he decided to pay the temple tax?
2. What are some practical ways we can stand firm in our convictions without shutting down conversations or building walls?
3. What are your initial thoughts about Romans 13 and the call to submit to governing authorities, especially those you may not agree with?
4. How do you reconcile acts of civil disobedience in the Bible, like those of Daniel or Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, with the call to submission?
5. What does 'true submission' to God look like in your life?
6. What does it mean to "live as people who are free, but also as servants of God"?
7. How can we effectively handle situations where our message or beliefs offend others, yet maintain relational integrity?
8. How do you interpret the phrase "freedom in relationship"; in the context of your own life?

### Reminders:

- Feeling a desire to help in church but not sure where? Observe a Children's church classroom and see if it's the right fit for you. Contact [pastoradam@eastrentonchurch.org](mailto:pastoradam@eastrentonchurch.org) to get started.