

**PART 1: Great State of Debate**

**DATE: 08-02-2020**

## START

Everyday we make choices between two objects. We make choices based upon preferences and tastes that we have developed over years of choosing and discovering what we like. Our choices are going to be different from person to person, and oftentimes our choice can be polar opposite to someone else's choice.

- Do you choose Pepsi or Coca-Cola? Why?
- What's a decision that you have made that has wedged a gap between someone else?
- How can we love, live, and lead in a polarized world?

## READ

Matthew 22:21-22 NIV

...“So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.” When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

## THINK

We have all been in discussions when you know you are right. The other person might be spouting information that is false and you know you have credible answers. The temptation is to hammer your point and convince the other person you are right. You might even be tempted to humiliate the person in order to prove that you are right, and in your effort to win, you actually lose.

- When have you been in a discussion when you realized being right might be wrong?
- How has your attempt to be right isolated people around you?

When we pull out every stop to make sure we win, we actually might be losing. By making sure we win we polarize people from others instead of bringing people together and bridging the gap. Like Caesar's coin, we all bear an image. As image bearers of God we are called to love, live, and lead like Jesus.

- Whose image is on you?
- How can we be a church that brings people together instead of driving people apart?
- What do you need to change in your life in order to point people to Jesus?

## PRAY

This week, pray that God will help you know when winning might actually mean you lose. Pray that He gives you patience and allows you to bring people together.

## ACT

This week, make a point to point people towards Jesus no matter what is being talked about. Allow your conversation to be filled with the love of Jesus and remember whose image is on you.

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**ONE CHURCH. RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE.**