

The Ethic of an Exile

August 1, 2021

Scriptures: 1 Peter 2:11-17; Jeremiah 29:4-7; Daniel 1-3; Mathew 22:16-22

Bottom Line: We obey our government, but we give our allegiance to Jesus

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1 Peter 2:11-17

Live such good and honourable lives that your neighbours glorify God. Obey the government and their officials.

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Build homes and plant gardens. Make a life for yourself in the place you are exiled. Work for the good and peace of the place you are

Daniel 1-3

You can look Babylonian, even contribute to the Babylon government, but your allegiance remains to God. When Babylon asks for your allegiance, refuse.

Matthew 22:16-22

Give the things made in the image of Caesar back to Caesar, but give God your whole self because you were made in His image.

This Ethic in Our Context

Not Everything Needs to Be Resisted

We Answer our Critics With our Lives

Resist the Temptation to Move to the Extremes

The Goal is Bringing People to God

LISTENING

Have someone in your group share something about their week. They could answer one of the following questions:

- What was a big challenge or problem you faced this week? How did you handle it?
- Where did you experience God this week? Or where do you wish you had experienced God this week?
- Based on your life experience this week, what do you think God is trying to teach you right now? What is He trying to build in you?

After the person shares, the group can respond. Make sure you let them know you heard them: tell them what you heard, offer wise advice where it's asked for, share from your own experience as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. What are some ways that Christians are struggling to obey our government right now? Where do you think the line of disobedience should be drawn? (Remember to be humble, gentle, and respectful of the views of others)
3. What issues tempt people to move to extremes in our world today? What is the Way of Jesus in those issues?
4. When is it important to take a side on an issue? When should Christian abandon the middle and "pick a side?"
5. What does your life tell those watching you? Does your life answer the criticisms and rumours that people believe about Christians?