

Week of November 15, 2021: JESUS AND POLITICAL POWERS

Discussion Questions Set #1

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 6:12)

In sermon, it was suggested that a healthy understanding of the verse above gives us a proper perspective as seek to understand how to interact with those in political power.

1. How might understanding that our battle is spiritual in nature and not primarily “flesh and blood” assist us as we interact with those in political power?
2. How might identifying the true source of our struggle (the spiritual rulers, authorities and powers) help us to interact well with those in political power?

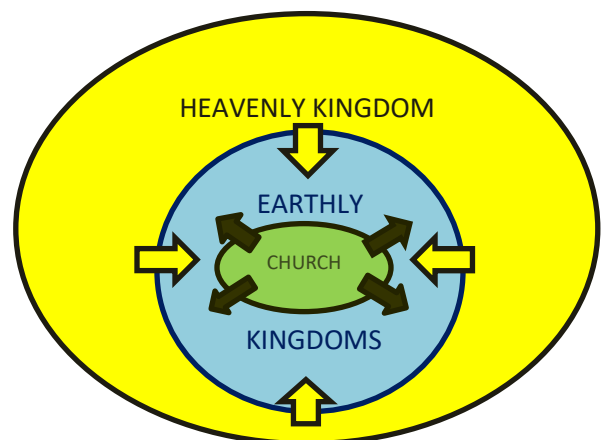
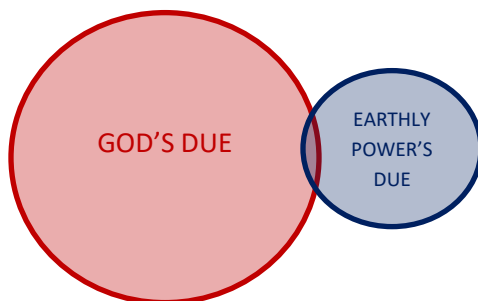
Discussion Questions Set #2

“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 ... Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience ... Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.” (Romans 13:1-7)

“The government will be on his shoulders” and “of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end”. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever”. (Revelation 11:15)

1. Is it possible to be both a “good citizen” and a “good follower of Jesus”? Why or why not?
2. How can we ensure that we don’t blur the lines between being a “good citizen” and a “good follower of Jesus”?
3. How does clearly understanding what is due to each “power” (God vs. earthly authorities) help us to determine our best ways of interaction?
4. Discuss what you see in the diagrams below.



Discussion Questions Set #3

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good”. (Romans 12:21)

“On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.” (Matthew 10:18)

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

1. What does overcoming evil with good look like in relation to our relations with those in political power?
2. How might understanding our sometimes less-than-rosy interactions with those in positions of political power as an opportunity for witness to Jesus change our approach in such circumstances?
3. How might prayer for those in positions of political authority properly season our hearts for witness to them?