



## **ASKING FOR A FRIEND: Christians and Politics**

July 2, 2023 | Pastor Kirk Walters  
Mount Paran North

<sup>1</sup> Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. <sup>2</sup> So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. <sup>3</sup> For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you.

### **Romans 13:1-3 NLT**

#### **Put Politics in Its Proper Place**

<sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. <sup>26</sup> But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. <sup>28</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

### **Matthew 20:25-28 NLT**

<sup>4</sup> The authorities are God’s servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God’s servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. <sup>5</sup> So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience. <sup>6</sup> Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. <sup>7</sup> Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.”

### **Romans 13:4-7 NLT**

<sup>27</sup> Then they brought the apostles before the high council, where the high priest confronted them. <sup>28</sup> “We gave you strict orders never again to teach in this man’s name!” he said. “Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!” <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than any human authority.

### **Acts 5:27-29 NLT**

<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees met together to plot how to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. <sup>16</sup> They sent some of their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to meet with him. "Teacher," they said, "we know how honest you are. You teach the way of God truthfully. You are impartial and don't play favorites." <sup>17</sup> Now tell us what you think about this: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" <sup>18</sup> But Jesus knew their evil motives. "You hypocrites!" he said. "Why are you trying to trap me?" <sup>19</sup> Here, show me the coin used for the tax." When they handed him a Roman coin, <sup>20</sup> he asked, "Whose picture and title are stamped on it?" <sup>21</sup> "Caesar's," they replied. "Well, then," he said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God." <sup>22</sup> His reply amazed them, and they went away.

### **Matthew 22:15-22 NLT**

## **Stop Dividing Over Differences**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. <sup>2</sup> Here are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (also called Peter), then Andrew (Peter's brother), James (son of Zebedee), John (James's brother), <sup>3</sup> Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew (the tax collector), James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, <sup>4</sup> Simon (the zealot), Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him).

### **Matthew 10:1-4 NLT**

## **Prioritize People Over Politics**

<sup>6</sup> Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. <sup>7</sup> Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority. <sup>8</sup> Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law.

### **Romans 13:6-8 NLT**

<sup>13</sup> When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and demanded, "Are you friend or foe?" <sup>14</sup> "Neither one," he replied. "I am the commander of the Lord's army." At this, Joshua fell with his face to the ground in reverence. "I am at your command," Joshua said. "What do you want your servant to do?"

### **Joshua 5:13-14 NLT**

