



TO CAESAR OR NOT?

**THE BIBLE ON RESPONDING
TO GOVERNMENT**

ONE THING IS TRUE WHETHER YOU LOVE POLITICS OR HATE THEM. THE SAME IS TRUE WHETHER YOU VOTE DEMOCRAT, REPUBLICAN, OR ANY OTHER PARTY. AND THIS TRUTH DOESN'T CHANGE IF YOUR CANDIDATE GETS ELECTED OR NOT. NO MATTER HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT POLITICS, YOU MUST DECIDE HOW YOU WILL INTERACT WITH GOVERNMENT. THIS SERIES EXPLORES THE BIBLE ON GOVERNMENT AND ANSWERS THE QUESTION, "TO CAESAR OR NOT?"



THIS SERIES IS FOR ANYONE WHO FEARS AMERICA'S CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE, WORRYING ABOUT WHAT OUR GOVERNMENT HAS BECOME OR WHAT IT MIGHT BECOME. IT IS FOR PEOPLE SICKENED AND SADDENED BY THE POLARIZATION OF OUR COUNTRY OVER PARTIES, CANDIDATES, AND RACES. IT IS FOR THOSE SENSING THERE IS A BETTER WAY, A WAY THAT CAN LEAD TO TRUE HOPE AND TRUE PEACE.



CreeksideBibleChurch.org/GODANDGOV



SERIESBOOKLET

**KEY VERSE:
SHOW PROPER RESPECT TO EVERYONE, LOVE
THE FAMILY OF BELIEVERS, FEAR GOD, HONOR
THE EMPEROR.**

I PETER 3:17

**ONE MUST ALWAYS BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT
POLITICIZING THE CHURCH, FOR THAT INEVITABLY
MEANS THAT THE CHURCH BECOMES INVOLVED
IN POWER STRUGGLES THAT WILL DETRACT FROM
ITS MISSION.**

**–DAVID E. GARLAND
PRESIDENT OF BAYLOR UNIVERSITY**

**IN A DEEPLY POLARIZED COUNTRY, WHEN
HALF THE PEOPLE DO FEEL CRUSHED, THE NEED
FOR SOME KIND OF POLITICAL HEALING AND
RECONCILIATION BECOMES CLEAR AND THAT
COULD BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ROLES
FOR THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY.**

**–JIM WALLIS
GOD'S POLITICS**



Elected Officials

Federal Officials

President, Vice President, United States Senators, U.S. House of Representatives

State Officials

Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Commissioner of Labor & Industries, State Senators, State Representatives

County Officials

County Commissioners, Assessor / Tax Collector, County Clerk, District Attorney, Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, Treasurer

City Officials

Mayor, Council President, Councilor

Right in God's Eyes | November 27th

Acts 4:13-21

Notes:



Questions:

1. In our society, what are some issues that force us to choose between serving God and serving government?
2. Evaluate your willingness to be obedient to God, even if government was going to punish you for it.
3. Summarize all that you've learned through this series and how you ought to live differently because of it.

Family

- Do the Bible App for Kids Adventure Book, if applicable.
- Read passage
- Discuss things that we should never be willing to do, even if our government told us to, and some things we should never be willing to not do, even if our government told us not to.
- Read a story on persecution.com and make an Action Pack (persecution.com/actionpack).
- Pray for those who are being persecuted by their governments.

Further Reading

Acts 5:17-32

Weekly Challenge

Visit Persecution.com and read a story (or two) of someone who did what was right in God's eyes despite the threat of punishment by their government.

For the Lord's Sake | November 20th

1 Peter 2:13-17



Notes:

Questions:

1. What are some ways you can show respect to our government officials? How can you honor our president?
2. We don't often remember the value of government. How would our nation be different if our government didn't commend right and punish wrong?
3. How does "...FOR THE LORD'S SAKE," alter your willingness to submit to government?

Family

- Do the Bible App for Kids Adventure Book, if applicable.
- Read passage
- Discuss ways that government punishes and rewards (commends) people.
- Write an encouraging letter to a government official.
- Pray

Further Reading

Titus 3:1-11

Weekly Challenge

Don't say anything bad about any government official (even on social media). Bonus: Say something positive about a government official that doesn't align with your political ideology.

Whose Image? | October 30th

Mark 12:13-17



Notes:

Questions:

1. Based on this text, predict other things that the Bible might say about God and government.
2. Besides taxes, identify things that might be "Caesar's."
3. David Guzik says, "If we take advantage of the benefits of governmental rule, we are obliged to submit to government, as long as it does not infringe on our service to God." Describe how you feel about this?

Family

- Do the Bible App for Kids Adventure Book, if applicable.
- Read passage
- Discuss how you, as a family, might better use your time, talents, and treasures (money) for God.
- Bundle up, grab a hot drink, go to a public park, and play. Thank God for his provision through government.
- Pray

Further Reading

Matthew 17:24-27

Weekly Challenge

On a separate sheet of paper write out all the implications that Mark 12:13-17 has for voting. After this, pray that God will lead you, and our nation, to vote the right way.

What God Has Instituted | November 6th

Romans 13:1-7



Notes:

Questions:

1. What are some ways you rebel, or have rebelled, against government.
2. If God establishes government, why do you think government can be so evil?
3. List some ways government is “good” for you.

Family

- Do the Bible App for Kids Adventure Book, if applicable.
- Read passage
- Discuss why government is sometimes bad (corrupt), when it is intended for our good, and talk about the good things that government provides.
- Go on a scavenger hunt (walk, bike, or drive) for political yard signs. Pray for the candidates on them and God’s working in and through the election. See how many signs you can find.
- Pray

Further Reading

John 19:1-11

Weekly Challenge

When your driving, don’t speed. If you are a walker or biker, follow the rules (use crosswalks, use hand signals, be on the correct side of the street) - even if nobody is around.

Petitions, Prayers, Intercession & Thanksgiving | November 13th

1 Timothy 2:1-4



Notes:

Questions:

1. Make a list, by name, of some government officials (see positions on page 1) that you could/should be praying for.
2. We spend a lot of time complaining about government officials, what are some things about our president, governor, senators, and/or mayor that you can be thankful for?
3. How does our government help or hinder your efforts to live a holy and godly life?

Family

- Do the Bible App for Kids Adventure Book, if applicable.
- Read passage
- Discuss the types of things you should be praying for government officials (i.e. that they would become Christians if they are not).
- Make a list, by name, of some government officials that you could/should be praying for. If you have kids, explain to them who the officials are and what they do. Use Google if needed.
- Pray for government officials.

Further Reading

Philippians 4:4-9

Weekly Challenge

Spend 10 minutes praying for (not against) our new president and other government officials.