

November 16 & 19, 2023



## **Confronting Christianity – Week #10 Is Jesus a Democrat or Republican?**

Joshua 5:13–14a (NIV)

*Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”<sup>14</sup> “Neither,” he replied,*

1. Multi-Ethnic worship. Revelation 5:9
2. Sacredness of marriage. Ephesians 5:32
3. Caring for the poor. Matthew 25:35-36
4. Care for the unborn. Psalm 139
5. Peacemaking. Matthew 5:9

**Four pillars for understanding the Church and politics:**

- 1. There are two kingdoms in conflict!**

- The Kingdom of God is already and not yet!

John 18:36-37 (NIV)

*Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." <sup>37</sup> "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."*

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV)

*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

## **2. Every believer has dual citizenship!**

Philippians 3:20 (NIV)

*But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,*

Mark 12:13-17 (NIV)

*Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words. <sup>14</sup> They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? <sup>15</sup> Should we pay or shouldn't we?" But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to trap me?" he asked. "Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." <sup>16</sup> They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." And they were amazed at him.*

- As citizens of this present kingdom, we faithfully submit to our civic responsibilities!
- As a citizen of heaven, we love and serve King Jesus with our heart mind and soul!

## **3. Human governments are ordained by God to restrain evil!**

Romans 13:1-2 (NIV)

*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. <sup>2</sup> Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.*

Romans 13:4-7 (NIV)

*For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. <sup>6</sup> This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup> 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.*

- The Government can restrain evil but only the Church can produce  
Produces righteousness!

#### **4. The Church gathered worships and the church scattered infiltrates!**

When the church chooses political sides, it loses spiritual influence.

Luke 19:10 (NIV)

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

Matthew 5:13 (NIV)

*"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.*

**The church can have the most cultural impact when:**

- a. When we live like priest, not like politicians!**

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

**b. When we remember our first allegiance is to Jesus and His Kingdom.**

**c. When we pray for those in power!**

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NIV)

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—<sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NIV)

*Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men <sup>10</sup> nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

**d. When we vote responsibly!**

**e. When we are convinced and kind!**