

Sunday, October 18th, 2026
Sermon Series: "Surrender: Serving the Savior"
"Belonging." Text(s): *Matthew 22.15-22.*
(Pentecost)

Our Text and Context...The Set-Up...

Matthew 22.15-17 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

To Whom Do You Belong?

*Matthew 22.18-21a But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, "Whose **likeness** and **inscription** is this?" ²¹They said, "Caesar's."*

εἰκὼν (*eikōn*): Lit., "Image"

ἐπιγραφή (*epigraphē*): "Inscription" "Title"

Genesis 1.26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..."

Exodus 13.9 And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt.

God Has the Greater Claim...So that We Can Love and Serve in His Name!

*Matthew 22.21b-22 Then he said to them, "Therefore **render** to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.*

ἀποδιδόμαι (*apodidomai*): "To pay back" (What is owed)

1 Peter 2.13-14, 17 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good...¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

You Belong to God!

1 Corinthians 6.19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.