

Common Ground Café

Sermon Discussion Guide

Sunday, September 13, 2020



How to Argue About Politics

Mark 12:13-17

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Get to Know You

Are you an instigator, pacifist, peacemaker, or run-awayer when it comes to an argument?

Study the Book

Read Mark 12:13-17

Don't view politics simplistically.

Who were the Pharisees and Herodians? How were they similar? How were they different?

What was the imperial tax?

Read Joshua 4:13-14

What was the angel's response to Joshua's question?

What do Jesus' and Joshua's response mean for us today?

Don't view politics cynically.

Read Mark 12:17

With that statement, Jesus was saying he expected believers to be good citizens of whatever nation they belong to. The nation he calls us to engage in may not be Christian—Rome certainly wasn't Christian when Jesus called on his followers to pay the imperial tax. In fact, Rome would put him to death not long after the conversation was recorded in this passage. But in the biblical worldview, government exists to promote justice and order, however imperfectly, and so we're called on to comply with earthly authorities up to a point.

Pastor Tom

Read Jeremiah 29:7 and Nehemiah 5:6-7

How can these verses guide our involvement with governments?

Don't view politics ultimately.

Giving "God what is God's" means that we are identified as His even in our politics.

What three questions did Pastor Tom provide to serve as a test to determine if your identity is more political or spiritual in nature?

Group Application and Discussion

How might your time be spent more fruitfully than arguing about politics?

When might be the right time to argue about politics?
What would be some essential qualities (fruits of the Spirit, etc.) to your approach?

Personal Reflection and Application

Take some time this week and ask yourself Pastor Tom's questions about identifying your identity. In what areas do you need to improve?