

# The Question About God and Caesar: The Two Citizenships

## Mathew 22: 15–22

(Mk 12:13-17; Lk 20:20-26)

### 1. *The false concepts of citizenship*

- a. Religion is supreme:  
The Pharisees
- b. The state is supreme:  
The Herodians

### 2. *The sins common to false concepts of citizenship*

- a. Selfish ambition:  
Leads to compromise
- b. Deception:  
Leads to false flattery  
and destruction
- c. A closed mind  
and obstinate unbelief:  
Leads to the rejection of truth  
and self-condemnation

### 3. *The truth about citizenship: There are two citizenships*

- a. Christ sees through false concepts  
and evil motives
- b. An earthly citizenship:  
There are things  
which belong to Caesar
- c. A heavenly citizenship:  
There are things  
which belong to God

15 Then the Pharisees went out  
and laid plans to trap him in his words.

16 They sent their disciples to him  
along with the Herodians.  
“Teacher,” they said,  
“we know you are a man of integrity  
and that you teach the way of God  
in accordance with the truth.  
You aren’t swayed by men,  
because you pay no attention to who they are.

17 Tell us then,  
what is your opinion?  
Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

18 But Jesus,  
knowing their evil intent, said,  
“You hypocrites,  
why are you trying to trap me?

19 Show me the coin used for paying the tax.”  
They brought him a denarius,

20 And he asked them,  
“Whose portrait is this?  
And whose inscription?”

21 “Caesar’s,” they replied.  
Then he said to them,  
“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s,  
and to God what is God’s.”

22 When they heard this,  
they were amazed.  
So they left him and went away.