

Connect Together

Discuss the validity of this quote by Voltaire: "If God created us in his own image, we have more than reciprocated." Any problems with it?

Lesson Verses - Matthew 22:15-22 (CSB)

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in
His talk. 16 And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians,
saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in
truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of
men. 17 Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to
Caesar, or not?" 18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said,
"Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? 19 Show Me the tax money." So
they brought Him a denarius. 20 And He said to them, "Whose image
and inscription is this?" 21 They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to
them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to
God the things that are God's." 22 When they had heard these words,
they marveled, and left Him and went their way.

Study & Apply

1. a. How did the opposing groups approach Jesus (v.16)? How is this a further fulfillment of Old Testament prophetic scripture concerning both the Jews and the rest of humanity? (Psalm 5:9; Romans 3:13, 23)

APPLY: What are ways we might flatter God, even as believers? How can we prevent ourselves from falling into a situation where we flatter God when our hearts are in the wrong place? What should we do if we have?

☕ **DISCUSS:** John 14:15 starts with a conditional, "If you love me, follow my commands." While Christ asked this of us, would it be OK to begin a request of prayer similar to this, "God, if you love me, then can you…."? What's the problem with this kind of prayer? (Matthew 4:7; Deuteronomy 6:16) How about saying this to other people?

2. In verse 23, Jesus uses a different word for "paying" to Caesar and to God, and Jesus uses the word "render."

   a. What do you suppose is the significance in Jesus choosing the word "render?" How does Jesus' word choice show the big issue with the Pharisees' heart and ministry towards God's people? (John 8:44-45; Romans 12:1)

   b. The word "Pharisee" is rooted in the words "separated" and "divided." What is the irony here in their name? How is their name's meaning a contrast to "rendering" to God what belongs to God?

APPLY: When we come to Jesus as our Lord and savior, what have we "rendered" to God? What are we rendering in our lives, and how often are we to do this? How does understanding this motivate you towards living as a Christian and being active in ministry?

☕ **DISCUSS:** Someone may say to you, "No one ever said ministry would be *easy*!" How would you respond? Why? (Isaiah 49:4; Romans 15:13; 1 John 4:7-10)

Share

Where do you foresee yourself in ministry? Where does your calling or passion lie? How will that impact *your* church for the glory of God?

Grow & Minister

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for the protection of the TBC family especially with the increase in infections.
- Pray for VBS, for the volunteers and kids and their protection. (Onsite: August 8-12)