

# Summary

The sermon discusses the relationship between Christian faith and American citizenship, centered around Jesus's teaching on giving to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's (Matthew 22:15-22). The pastor challenges the congregation to consider whether they identify first as Americans who are Christians or Christians who are Americans, emphasizing that while Christians have obligations to their government, their primary allegiance must be to God.

## Intro Prayer

Lord, as we gather to discuss these important truths about our dual citizenship in heaven and on earth, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to understand Your perspective. Help us to see clearly how we should live as Your followers while being good citizens of our nation. Guide our discussion and help us to be honest with ourselves about where our primary allegiance lies. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Ice Breaker

What's your favorite way to celebrate the 4th of July, and why is that tradition meaningful to you?

## Key Verses

1. Matthew 22:21
2. Philippians 3:20
3. Acts 5:29
4. Psalm 24:1
5. Romans 13:6

## Questions

1. How do you personally balance your identity as both a Christian and an American?
2. How do you personally balance your identity as both a Christian and an American?
3. What are some specific obligations we have to our government? How do these align with biblical teaching?
4. What are some specific obligations we have to our government? How do these align with biblical teaching?
5. When might there be tension between our obligations to God and our obligations to government? How should we handle such situations?
6. When might there be tension between our obligations to God and our obligations to government? How should we handle such situations?
7. How can we be good citizens while maintaining our primary allegiance to Christ?
8. How can we be good citizens while maintaining our primary allegiance to Christ?
9. What does it mean practically to 'give to God what is God's' in our daily lives?
10. What does it mean practically to claim to 'give to God what is God's' in our daily lives?

# Life Application

This week, commit to spending 10 minutes each day praying specifically for our nation and its leaders, while also examining your own heart to ensure that your primary allegiance remains with Christ. Look for practical ways to demonstrate both good citizenship and faithful Christian witness in your community.

## Key Takeaways

1. Christians have legitimate obligations to their government, including paying taxes and obeying laws
2. Our primary citizenship and allegiance must be to God's kingdom
3. Government authority is always subject to God's authority
4. Christians have a responsibility to be a positive witness in their nation while maintaining their primary identity in Christ
5. National healing and revival come through faithful Christians crying out to God, not through political solutions

## Ending Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the privilege of being citizens of both heaven and earth. Help us to honor You in how we fulfill our earthly citizenship while never compromising our primary allegiance to Your kingdom. Give us wisdom to navigate these dual roles and use us to bring Your light to our nation. May we be faithful witnesses who point others to Jesus while serving our communities well. In Christ's name, Amen.