



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of October 28, 2024

1. With Thanksgiving coming up, the secular experts advise that people should “Avoid talking about religion or politics around the table” in order to preserve family harmony. Why are these topics so sensitive? Do you agree with the sentiment that these two things shouldn’t be talked about in public? Why or why not? When was the last time you had a heated discussion about religion or politics?
2. Have someone in your group read **Matthew 22:15-22**. Why was the issue of “government” and “taxes” such a hot topic in Jesus’ day among the Jewish people? What “trap” were these religious leaders trying to set for Jesus on this day? How did Jesus avoid the trap?
3. When Jesus says that we are to “...give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s” and “...to God what is God’s”— He is making clear that there are two distinct realms that are unique and separate: human government and personal faith. How is it possible that you as a Christian can be an active participant in both realms? (be sure to look at Philippians 3:20 and 1 Peter 3:13-17).
4. How does Jesus’ presentation in Matthew 22 overturn the typical thinking about the “separation of church and state”? Should individual Christians avoid all things political and just stick to the gospel? Why or why not?
5. During his Sunday message, Kurt Weaver pointed us to Romans 13. **Read Romans 13:1-7**. Where did the idea of human government come from? What positive benefits come to human society because of government? Name some of the “good things” that government can provide. Should Christians be “anti-government” or anarchists against the government?
6. What are some of the appropriate attitudes and actions that should come from Christian people as it relates to government leaders and political officials (see 1 Timothy 2:1-2)?
7. According to 1 Timothy 2:1-2, what kind of lives are we likely to experience when there are righteous rulers at the helm, bringing good government from the various seats of power— federal, state, and local? How would you define “...peaceful and quiet lives in all holiness and godliness”?
8. What are some quality prayer requests that you could lift up for leaders in Washington, Harrisburg, Lancaster County, and even our local townships? Close your Life Group with a prayer time for government leaders and those in authority.

Learn more about Kurt Weaver, PA Family Institute, and the Church Ambassador Network at pafamily.org