



## CHRISTIAN LAWYERS AND POLITICS: AN UNHOLY MIX?

### What do you think about politics?

- How is your job and your life connected to politics? (it will be!)
- How do you feel about the current state of British and international politics?
- What do you think would make it better?
- Can you think of any good and bad examples of Christian engagement in politics?

### What does God say about politics?

- Read Mark 12:13-17. What does Jesus' answer suggest about how the church and the state relate to each other?
- Read Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:
  - What is government for?
  - What limits are there on a government's power?
  - How should Christians relate to the government?

### What can Christians do about politics?

- Two very different issues: pick one and discuss in your groups how you think Christians should engage in the debate:
  - Should we stay in the EU?
  - Should out-of-school education for children (such as Sunday schools, summer camps and madrassas) be subject to Government regulation?
- Which of these next steps could you take?
  - Vote in the EU referendum and try to persuade at least 1 other person of your point of view
  - Find out who your local councillor and MP are
  - Pray regularly for our government, Parliament, local authorities and Queen
  - Write a letter or email to a politician thanking them for something they've done
  - Write to your MP about an issue you care about (e.g. international aid, abortion, religious freedom, housing)
  - Sign up to the mailing list of Christians in Politics or Care
  - Say yes to invitations to join the Board of Governors of a school or similar
  - Join a political party
  - Get involved in a political party at a local level



- Stand for political office!

#### Further reading:

- *God and Politics*, Mark Dever (10 Publishing, Leyland, 2016)
- *Good News for the Public Square*, Tim Laurence (Lawyers' Christian Fellowship, 2014)
- *Those Who Show Up*, Andy Flannagan (Muddy Pearl, Edinburgh, 2015)

#### Mark 12:13-17

<sup>13</sup> Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words. <sup>14</sup> They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? <sup>15</sup> Should we pay or shouldn't we?"

But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to trap me?" he asked. "Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." <sup>16</sup> They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

"Caesar's," they replied.

<sup>17</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

And they were amazed at him.

#### Romans 13:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup> Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. <sup>4</sup> For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

<sup>6</sup> This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup> Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour.

#### 1 Timothy 2:1-4

<sup>1</sup> I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— <sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, <sup>4</sup> who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.



## **1 Peter 2:11-17**

*<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

*<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. <sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.*