



Pastor Scott Archer 01.18.2015\*  
Central Congregational Church  
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"  
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## Giving God His Due Mark 12:13-17

### Debating with Jesus

**Mark 12:13–15 (NIV)** — **13** Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words. **14** 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? 15 Should we pay or shouldn't we?"...**

- ❖ Questioning God *may* be an act of self-justification and a substitute for obedience.

**Mark 12:15–17 (NIV)** — ...But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to trap me?" he asked. "Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." **16** They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. **17** 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.

### The Fact of the Matter

- ❖ We are "owned" by God by way of creation and salvation.

**Genesis 1:27 (NIV)** — **27** So God created mankind in his own image, **in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.**

**1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NIV)** — **19** Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? **You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price....**

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**1 Peter 1:18–19 (NLT)** — **18** For you know that **God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. 19** It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

**Revelation 5:9–10 (NIV)** — **9** And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, **and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10** You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

**Central Thought:** As Caesar's coin bore his image as a sign of his authority, so we bear the image of God, our loving creator, and owe him the allegiance of the totality of our lives.

**Romans 12:1–2 (NIV)** — **1** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, **in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2** Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- ❖ Jesus is better than Caesar. He's proof that God is for us!

**John 3:16 (NIV)** — **16** **For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**Romans 5:8 (NIV)** — **8** **But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

### Questions/Homework

- ❖ Do you believe that God is for you? If so, have you responded to his authority and the offer of salvation in Jesus?
- ❖ Seek out a friend, or make an appointment with Pastor Scott to talk about barriers to faith.

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