

Rendering to All Their Due While Seeking First the Kingdom

Rom 13.7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

* Paul is quoting and building on Jesus' famous quote:

Mat 22.17 "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" 18 But Jesus ... said, ... 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."

* This harkens back to Paul's opening to Rom 12:

Rom 12.1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

* This leads to us being kingdom leaven:

Mat 13.33 "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

* Which is another way of describing the great commission:

Mat 28.18 "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

* All of this together is at the heart of Jesus's command:

Mat 6.33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness"

* This often creates a tension and a paradox ...

* We see the tension and the paradox today ...

* The kingdom of Christ is not revolutionary, but transformational.

1Tim 2.1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

* What is the problem with violent revolution?