

## To Caesar or to God?

### **Ready:**

“Jesus told them, ‘Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’” -- [Mark 12:17](#)

### **Set**

How do fans show which team is their favorite? How do they imitate their idols on a team? Sometimes by dressing the same way, talking about the team or player constantly or by trying to mimic their go to moves in competition.

When I was a kid, I wanted to dress and play like my idol. That's why I watched videos hundreds, sometimes thousands of times, and then on the court I trained every element of the game to be like my favorite athlete. Later, I studied his life and behavior more. Clearly, I was demonstrating allegiance to him and his team.

In Mark 12 the Pharisees are looking to trap Jesus by asking Him if they should pay taxes. Knowing their motives, Jesus answers simply, “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” Those in authority have power. Caesar had enough power to have his likeness stamped on coins. Some athletes have enough power to influence how we play the game or what shoes we buy. But we must always be careful that we are not doing the opposite of what Jesus warns. Giving to Caesar (our favorite players or teams) the things that are God’s. If we begin to give all of our time, attention and adoration to a team or player we are taking from God.

Examine your heart. Examine the time you spend on your phone and social media. Examine who you think about and who you talk about. Are you giving to God the things that are God’s? Are you placing things ahead of Him? It is easy to allow other things to creep into God’s place. You need to be intentional about prioritizing your relationship with God and demonstrating the fruit of faith more than showing who your favorite team or player is.

### **Go**

- How do we demonstrate our belonging to team God?
- How and why exactly do I demonstrate my belonging to God the Creator?
- Who can help me better demonstrate my belonging to God now?

### **Workout**

[Genesis 1:26-31](#)

Galatians 2:20

Colossians 3:1-4

### **Overtime**

“Lord, thank You that You are the Creator of my life! Give me the strength and will to make You a priority in my life. I want to give to You the things You deserve. Thank You for creating me and saving me. Give me the strength and circumstances where I can represent You, as your child. Thank You that in sports and in life I can do everything for You and for your glory. Amen!”



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