

This Is Love

Lay Down Your Ideology (Week 2)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

We must not allow our ideology to take precedence over true theology.

Key Scriptures

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” Matthew 22:15-17 ESV

But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Matthew 22:18-19 ESV

And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s. Matthew 22:20-21 ESV

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33 ESV

How to guard against operating from personal ideology vs. true theology:

- Speak less, listen more.

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. James 1:19-20 NIV

- Demand less, serve more.

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.” Mark 9:35 NIV

Start talking.

- Define and compare ideology vs. theology?
- What are dangers of operating first out of our ideology?

Start thinking.

- Read Matthew 22:15-17. What united the Pharisees and Herodians against Jesus? Why was this question such a hot button issue at the time? What hot button ideological issues would be used today to try and trip Jesus up?
- Read Matthew 22:18-19. Why did Jesus call them hypocrites? What parallels do you see with current ideologues?

- Read Matthew 22:20-21. How did Jesus shift their ideological question to a deeper theological truth? How could you replicate the same principle with today’s topics?
- Read Matthew 6:33. How is this an “antidote” to ideological divisions?

Start sharing.

- What divisions have you experienced because of ideological passions?
- How have you witnessed ideology being used as a weapon?
- How have you at times allowed your personal ideology to supercede true theology?

Start doing.

- How can you practically apply the two actions steps this week?
- What positive impact would that have on you and those around you?

Closing prayer.

Jesus I confess I often allow my personal passions and ideological positions to lead how I respond and care for others. Forgive me. Help me to anchor myself to the true theology found in your Word. To seek first your Kingdom and your righteousness above the perceived “rightness” of my own opinions. Help me to lay my life—my ideologies—down as a bridge for others to experience and receive your surpassing love.