

## Freedom and Duty > Matthew 17:24-27

**17:24** *The question:* what kind of a teacher is Jesus? Is He the sort who is a “good citizen” and pays taxes? Or does He promote rebellion and not being a part of the community?

**17:25-26** *The reality:* Jesus wants to make sure that Peter understands something vital – in following Jesus, he has become a part of the King’s family. From an earthly standpoint, Peter – and every other Christian – has a new family and a new allegiance, which changes everything.

**17:27** *The response:* shockingly, Christ’s application is not that Christians can disregard the laws and customs of the places where they live. Instead, it’s that we should give up our rights on matters that aren’t focused on the Gospel. Instead, we ought to live as good citizens even if it costs us personally.

**Context:** This teaching occurs later in Christ’s ministry, after the transfiguration and immediately following a teaching on Christ’s impending death and resurrection.

**Argument:** Faithful followers of Jesus are exiles in a foreign land – we have a different kingdom listed on our passports and obey a different set of rules. At the same time, we are to be good examples of that kingdom, and so we are careful to not unnecessarily offend the very folks we’re trying to reach.

**Gospel:** Jesus never gave into the temptation to drift from His main mission of showing us the Kingdom and doing the work so that all who believe can enter into it.

**Application:** How will you combine being a good citizen with joyfully living in light of and spreading the Gospel?

**Here is how I will apply these truths:** \_\_\_\_\_

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