



# KING & KINGDOM

## WHAT DO WE GIVE GOVERNMENT VS GOD?





## Mark 12:13-17

Then they sent to Him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap Him in what He said. And they came and said to Him, “Teacher, we know that You are sincere, and show deference to no one; for You do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?”

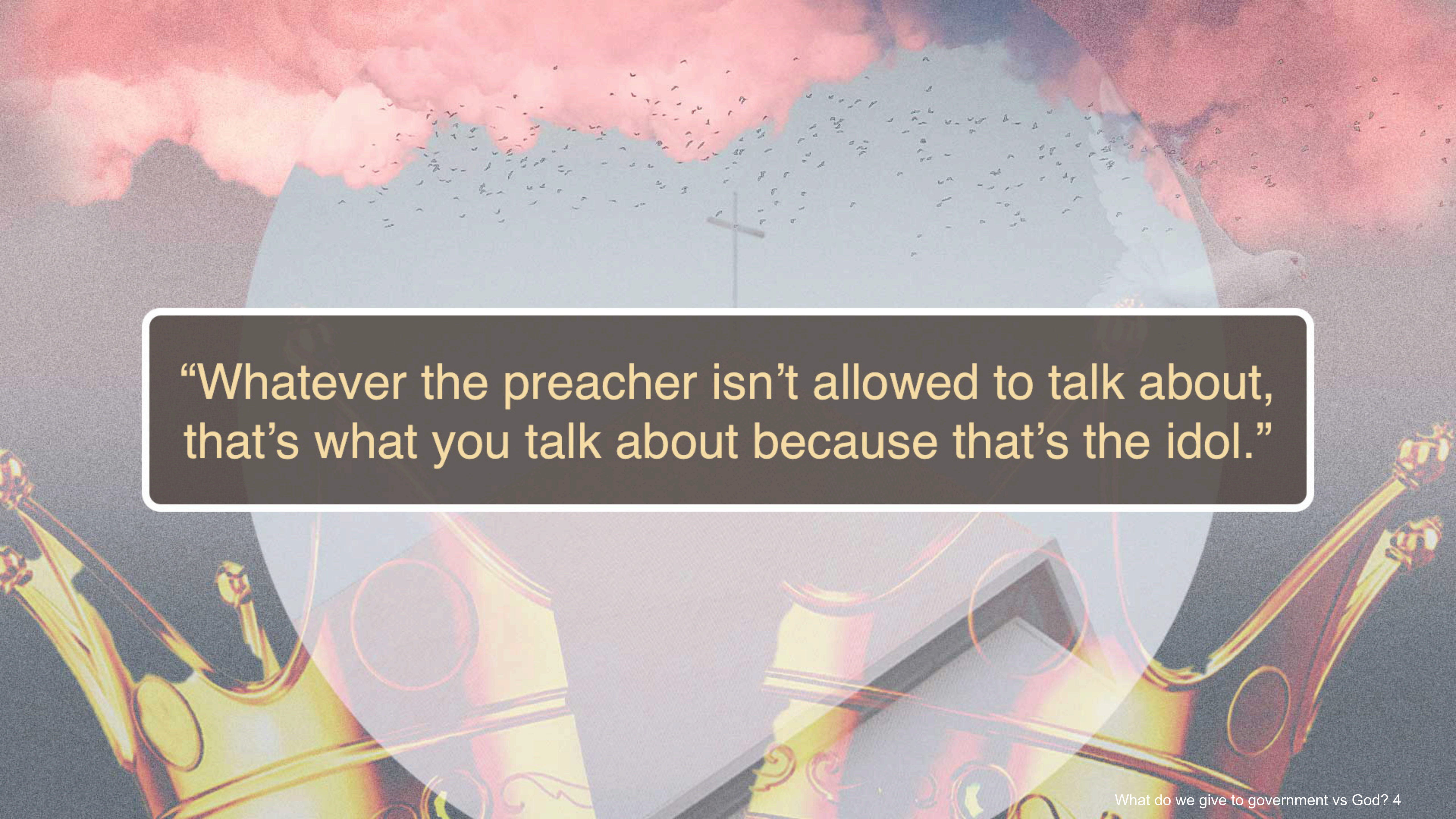


The background of the slide features a vibrant, abstract illustration. At the top, a flock of small black birds is shown in flight against a sky with soft, pinkish-orange clouds. Below the sky, the landscape is composed of various golden, metallic-looking structures and shapes, including what appear to be stylized columns or pillars, creating a sense of depth and architectural complexity. The overall color palette is dominated by warm tones like gold, pink, and orange, contrasted with the dark blue of the sky and the black of the birds.

## Mark 12:13-17

But knowing their hypocrisy, He said to them, “Why are you putting Me to the test? Bring Me a denarius and let Me see it.” And they brought one. Then He said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Jesus said to them, “Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were utterly amazed at Him.





“Whatever the preacher isn’t allowed to talk about, that’s what you talk about because that’s the idol.”





## We are Citizens of God's Kingdom.

- Who is the King?
- Where is the kingdom?
- What is the kingdom like?
- Who are the citizens?
- What's the law of the King?
- How ought His ambassadors live in foreign countries?



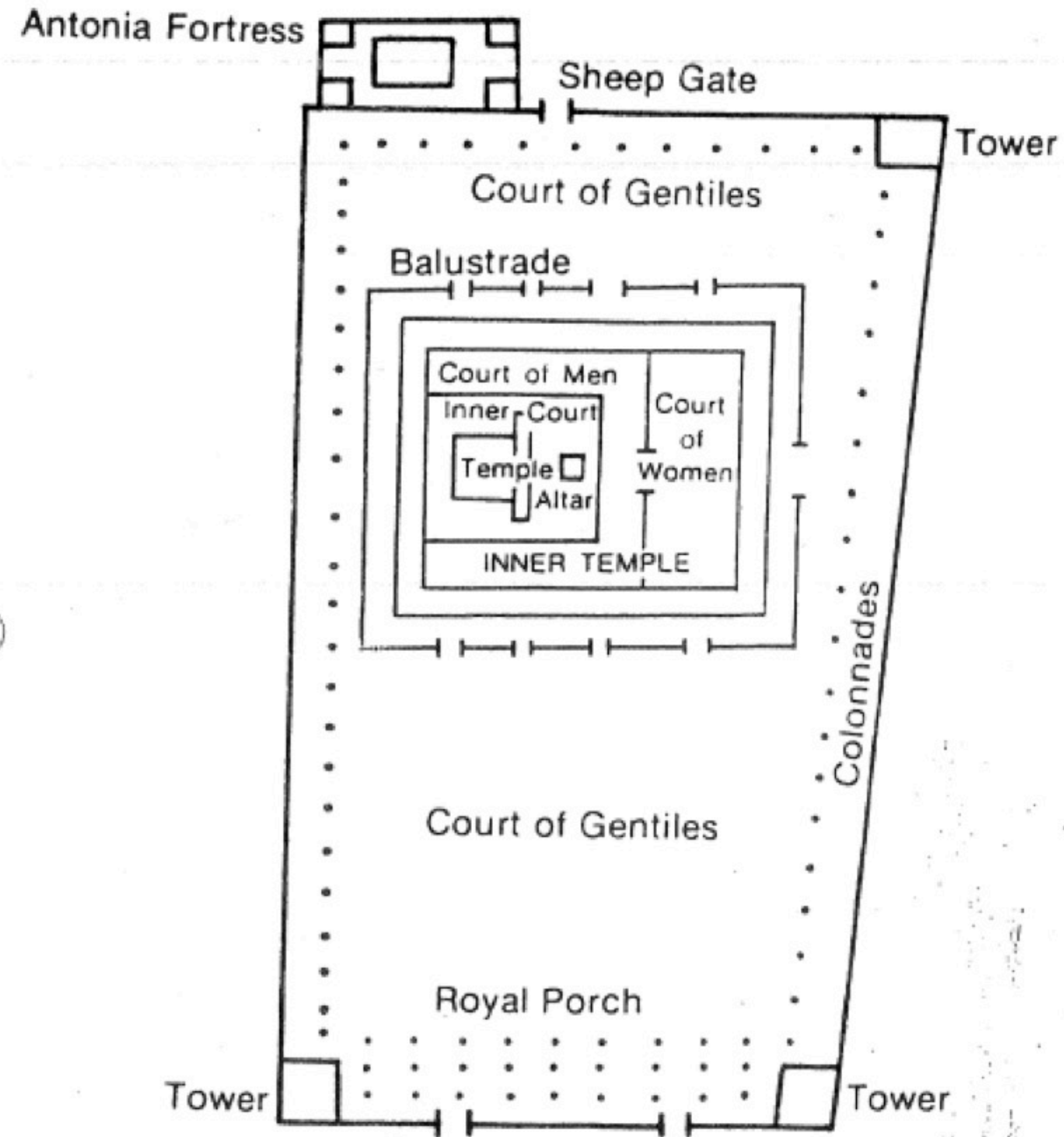
The background of the slide features a vibrant, abstract illustration. At the top, a large flock of small, dark birds is shown in flight against a sky with soft, pinkish-orange clouds. Below the sky, the lower portion of the image is dominated by a complex, golden structure that resembles a classical building or a series of ornate columns. The structure is rendered in a stylized, almost painterly manner, with warm golden-yellow and orange tones. The overall composition suggests a scene of grandeur and historical significance, fitting the biblical theme of the text.

## Mark 12:13-17 - Historical Context

- Jesus has reached the last week of His life.
- He's in Jerusalem, the epicenter of political power.
- It's Passover week.
- Passover was a politically-charged and subversive celebration of revolution.
- The Romans stood ready to "keep the peace."



# The Temple in Jerusalem



the Model of Ancient Jerusalem





## Mark 12:13-17 - Historical Context

- The Roman soldiers are ready to stomp out revolution.
- The Jewish patriots are ready to start one.
- Everyone else is hoping they don't get caught in the violence.





## Jesus Makes a Plan - Mark 11:11

Then He entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when He had looked around at everything, as it was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.





## Jesus Judges the Temple - Mark 11:15

Then they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple...





## Jesus Judges the Leadership - Mark 12:12-13

When they realized that He had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest Him, but they feared the crowd. So they left Him and went away. Then they sent to Him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap Him...





## Jesus Calls Them Hypocrites - Mark 12:15-16

But knowing their **hypocrisy**, He said to them,  
“Why are you putting Me to the test? Bring Me a **denarius**  
and let Me see it.” And they brought one.





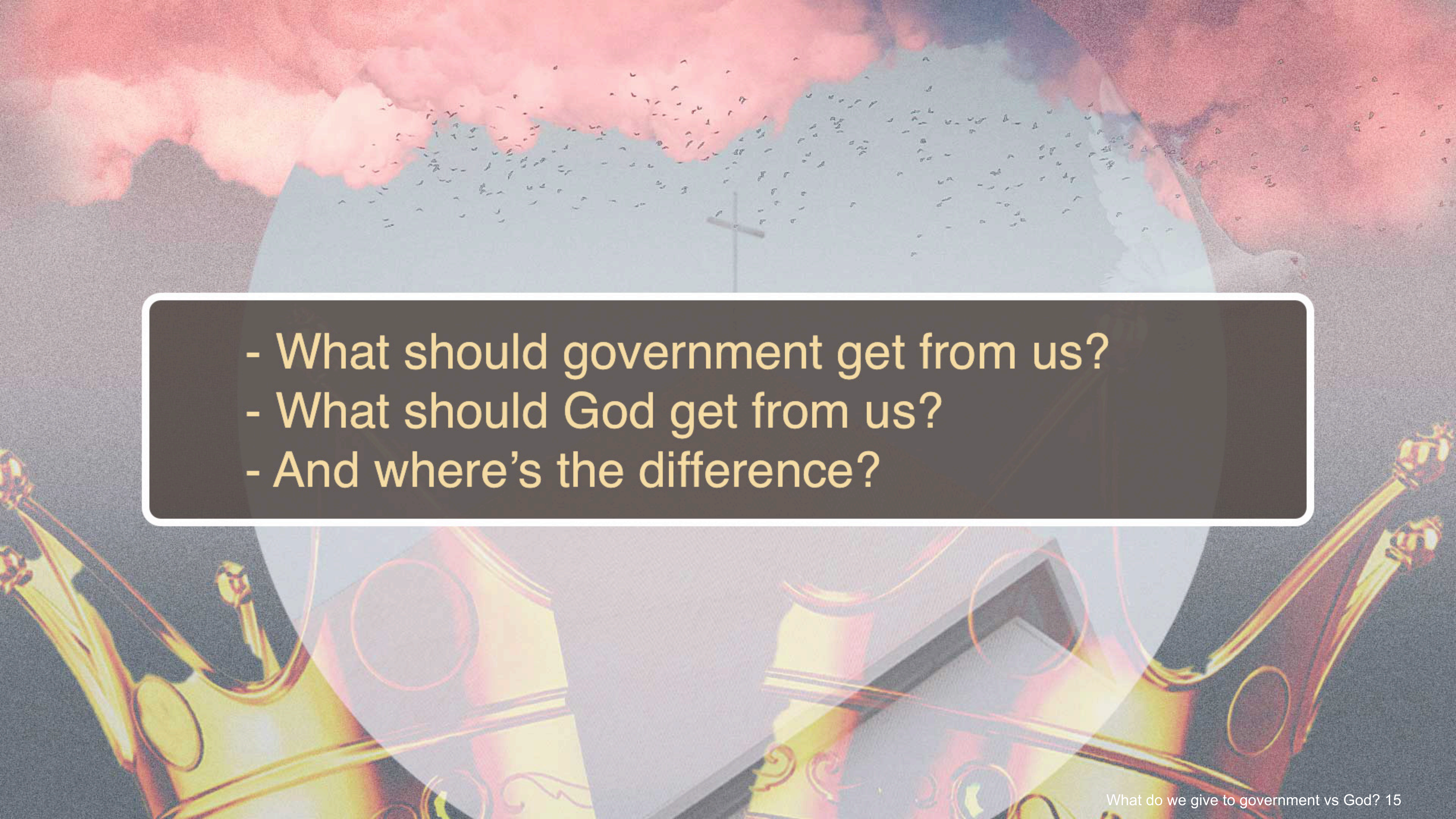





## Jesus Gets Political - Mark 12:16-17

Then He said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Jesus said to them, “Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were utterly amazed at Him.



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- What should government get from us?
  - What should God get from us?
  - And where's the difference?





# 1. Government should get our respect and submission.

- a. Government is a legitimate God-ordained institution created for the good of humanity.





## Scripture says Government should facilitate:

1. Order
2. Justice
3. Virtue

4. Prosperity
5. Safety

(City of Man by Gerson and Wehner)





## Romans 13:1

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities;  
for there is no authority except from God, and those  
authorities that exist have been instituted by God.

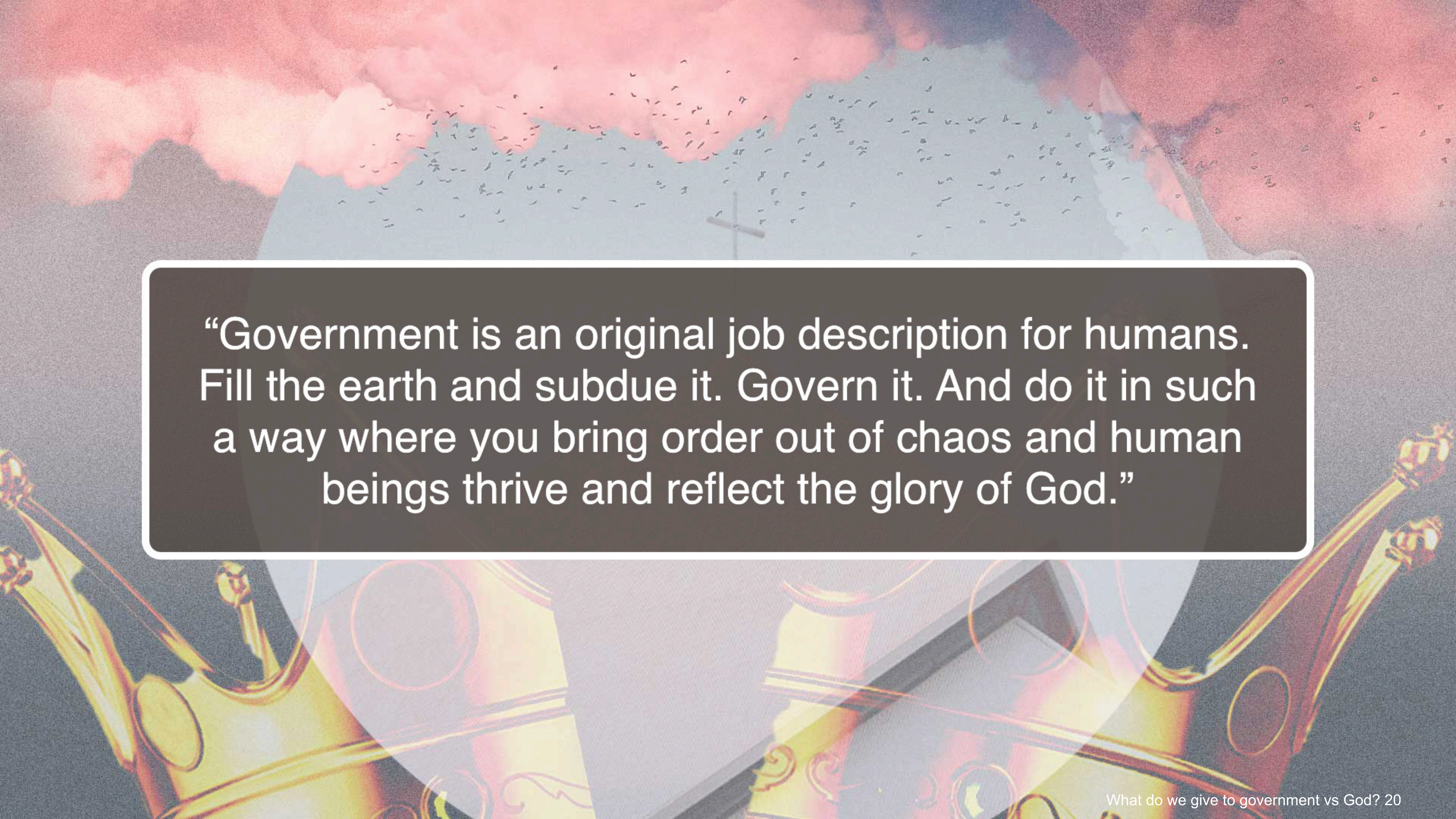




## Genesis 1:27-28

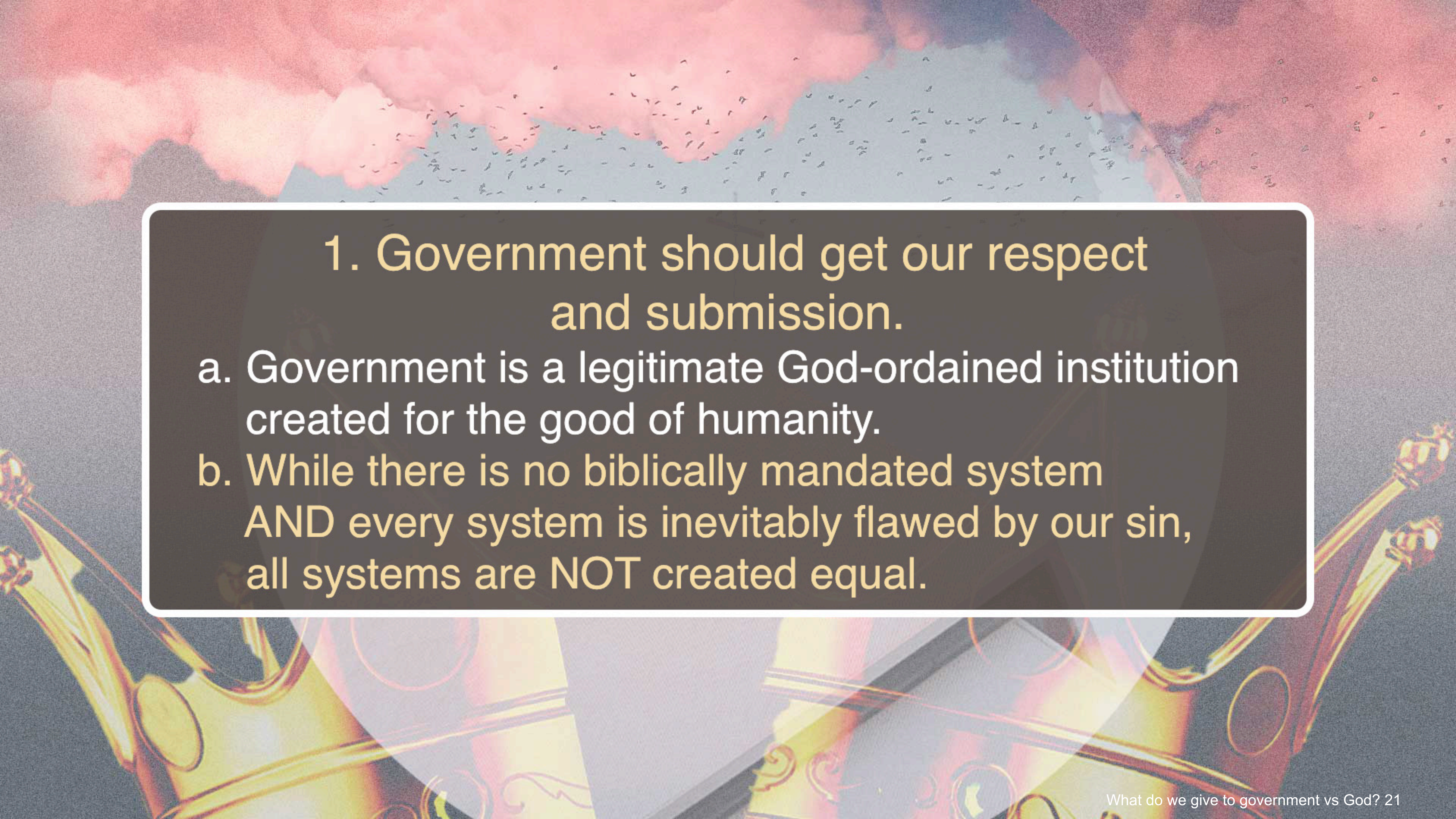
“So God created human beings **in His own image**. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and **govern it.**”





“Government is an original job description for humans. Fill the earth and subdue it. Govern it. And do it in such a way where you bring order out of chaos and human beings thrive and reflect the glory of God.”

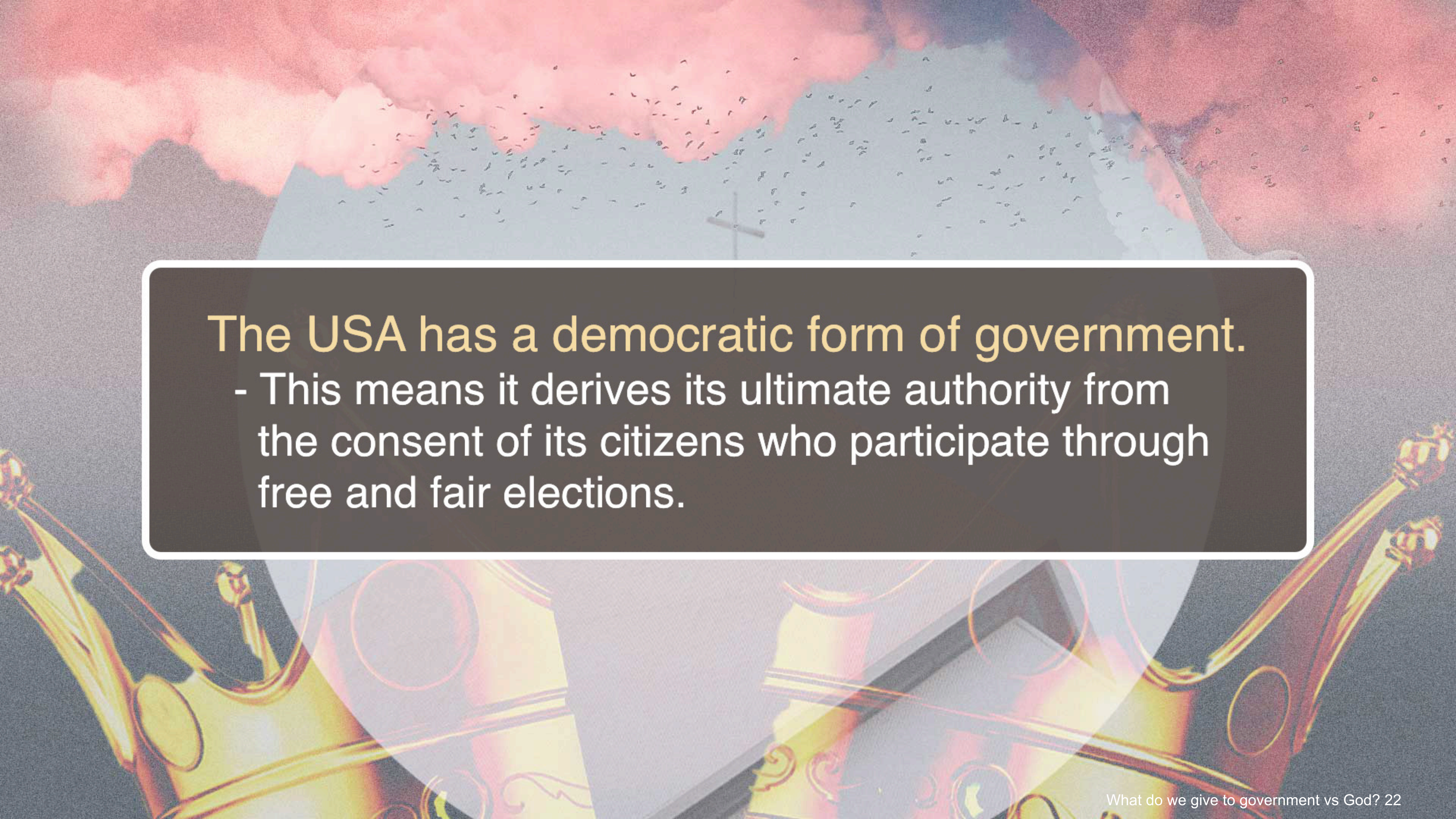




## 1. Government should get our respect and submission.

- a. Government is a legitimate God-ordained institution created for the good of humanity.
- b. While there is no biblically mandated system AND every system is inevitably flawed by our sin, all systems are NOT created equal.





The USA has a democratic form of government.

- This means it derives its ultimate authority from the consent of its citizens who participate through free and fair elections.





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- This means it derives its ultimate authority from the consent of its citizens who participate through free and fair elections.
- We are not a direct democracy, we are a constitutional republic.

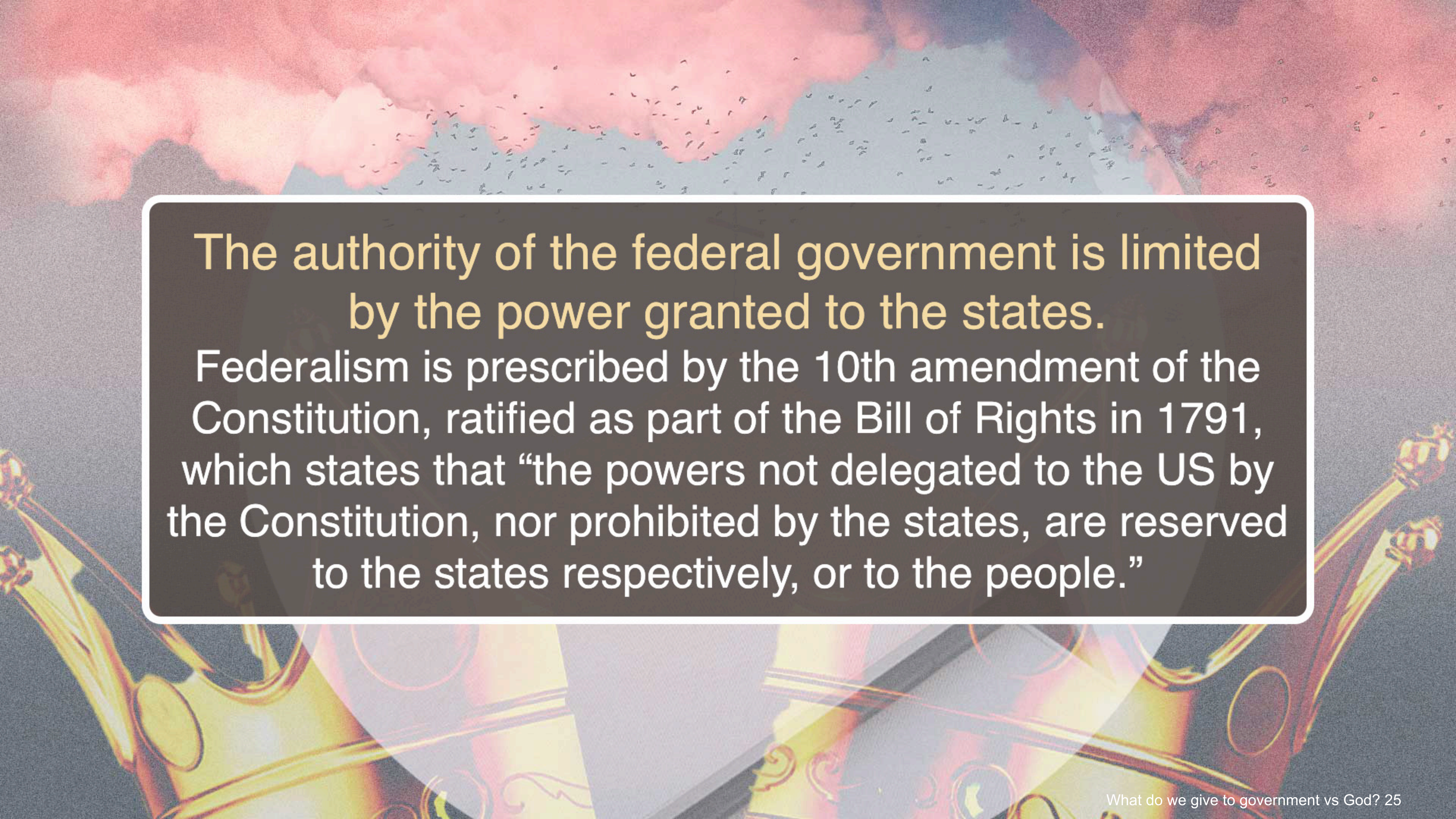




## The Constitution instituted three branches for the federal government.

- The legislative makes the law.
- The executive executes and enforces the law.
- The judicial interprets the law.
- Each branch is designed to limit the authority of others through checks and balances.






The authority of the federal government is limited  
by the power granted to the states.

Federalism is prescribed by the 10th amendment of the Constitution, ratified as part of the Bill of Rights in 1791, which states that “the powers not delegated to the US by the Constitution, nor prohibited by the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.”

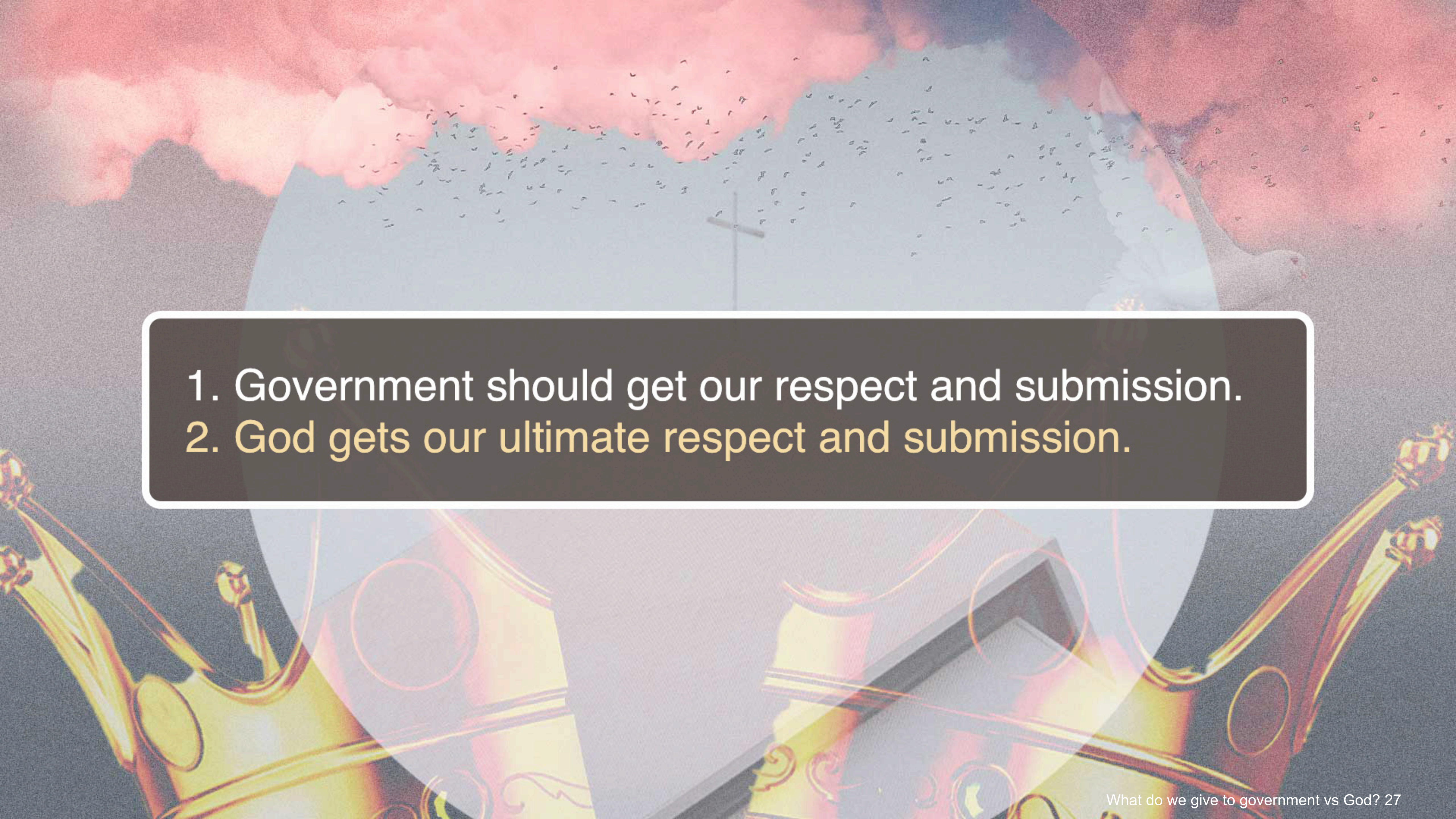




## Not mentioned in the Constitution?

- Political parties
- The Separation of Church and State



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1. Government should get our respect and submission.
  2. God gets our ultimate respect and submission.





John 19:11

Jesus [said to Pilate], “You would have no power over Me unless it had been given you from above...”



The background of the slide is a stylized illustration of a church interior. At the top, there are large, colorful stained glass windows in shades of red, orange, and blue. Below the windows, a large number of small, dark silhouettes of birds are flying across the sky. In the center, a simple wooden cross is visible. The bottom of the image shows the ornate, golden-colored metalwork of a church altar or pulpit, with intricate scrollwork and circular designs.

## John 18:36

Jesus [said to Pilate], “My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, My followers would fight to keep Me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders.  
But My Kingdom is not of this world.”





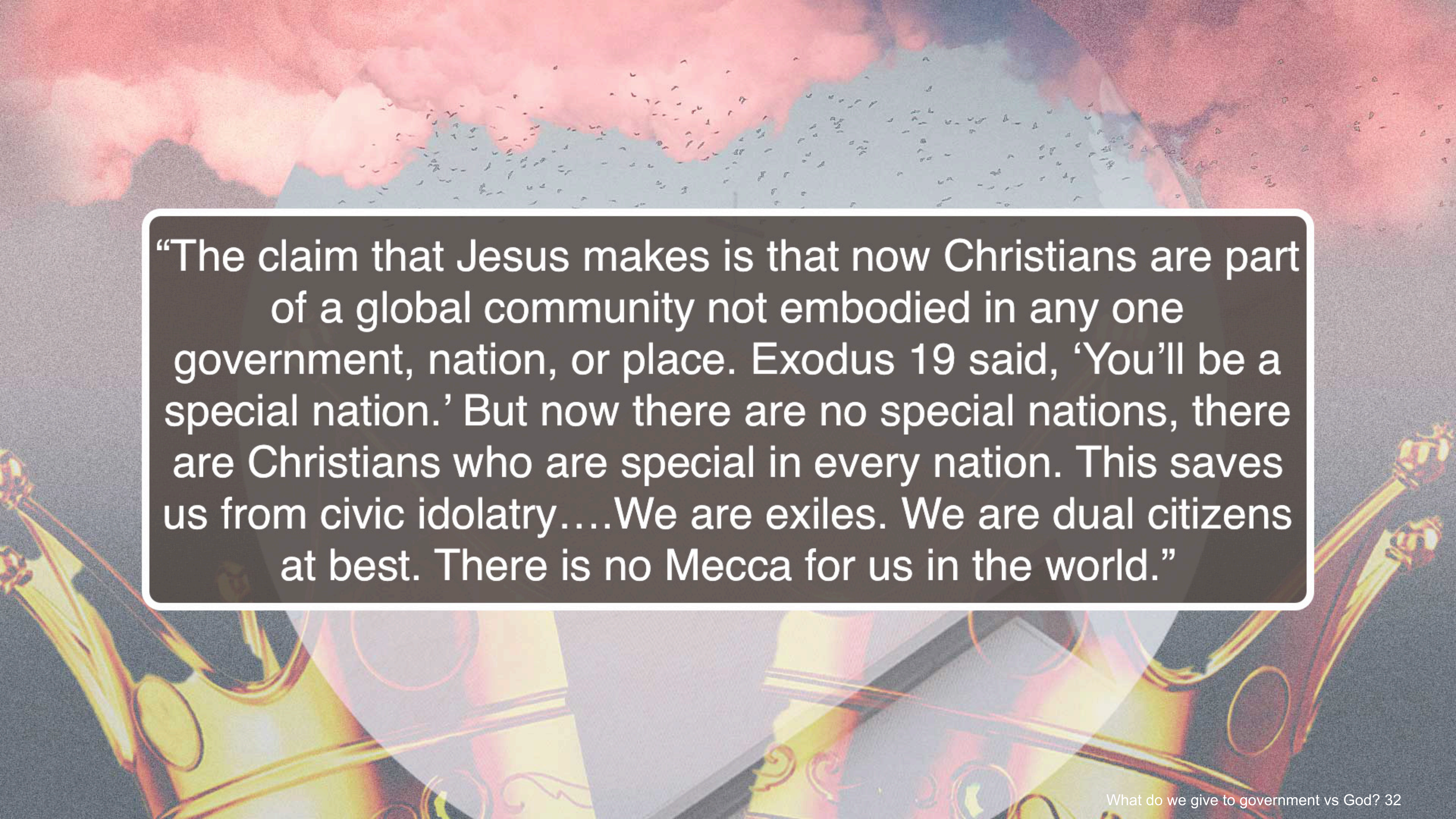
## Mark 12:17

Jesus said to them, “Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”



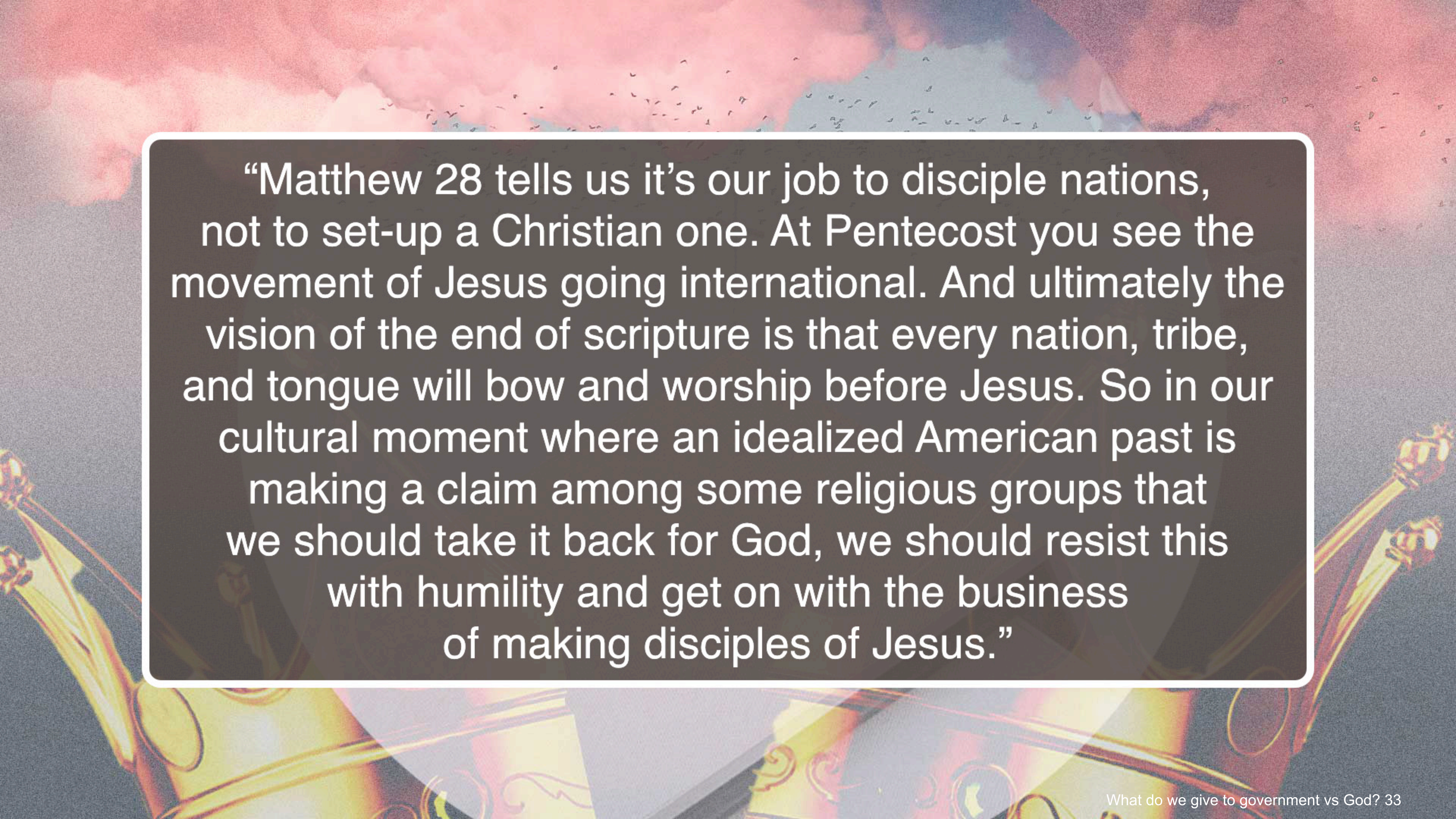
- 
2. God gets our ultimate respect and submission.
- a. Our submission to government isn't blind or unconditional.





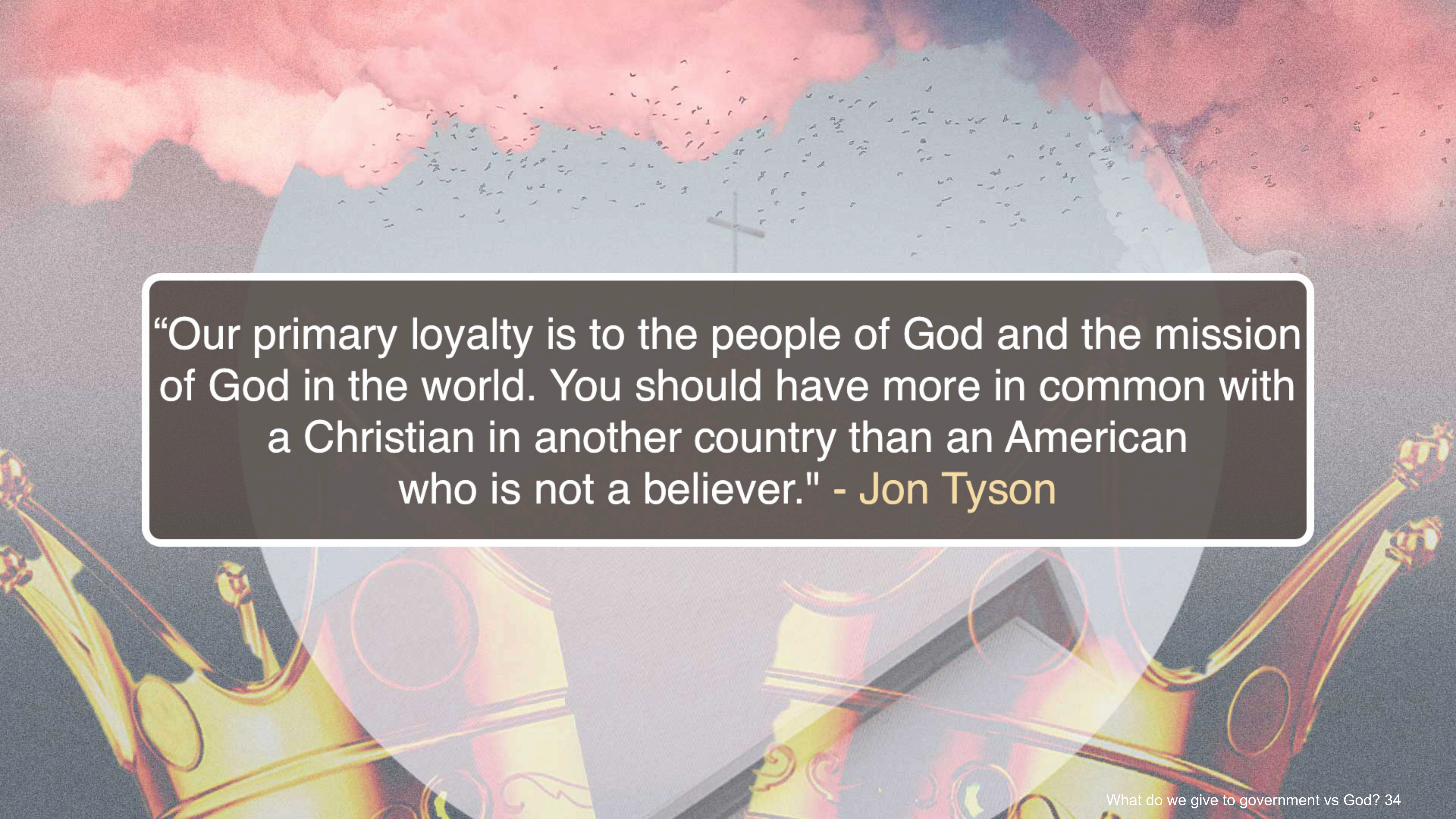
“The claim that Jesus makes is that now Christians are part of a global community not embodied in any one government, nation, or place. Exodus 19 said, ‘You’ll be a special nation.’ But now there are no special nations, there are Christians who are special in every nation. This saves us from civic idolatry....We are exiles. We are dual citizens at best. There is no Mecca for us in the world.”



The background of the slide is a composite image. The top half shows a sunset or sunrise sky with soft, pinkish-orange clouds and a flock of small birds flying across. The bottom half features several golden scepters or staffs with ornate, bulbous finials, arranged diagonally and overlapping each other. The entire scene is set against a dark, textured background.


“Matthew 28 tells us it’s our job to disciple nations, not to set-up a Christian one. At Pentecost you see the movement of Jesus going international. And ultimately the vision of the end of scripture is that every nation, tribe, and tongue will bow and worship before Jesus. So in our cultural moment where an idealized American past is making a claim among some religious groups that we should take it back for God, we should resist this with humility and get on with the business of making disciples of Jesus.”





“Our primary loyalty is to the people of God and the mission of God in the world. You should have more in common with a Christian in another country than an American who is not a believer.” - **Jon Tyson**



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2. God gets our ultimate respect and submission.
- a. Our submission to government isn't blind or unconditional.
  - b. The USA and the KOG aren't on the same level.






## The Kingdom of God transcends geographical borders

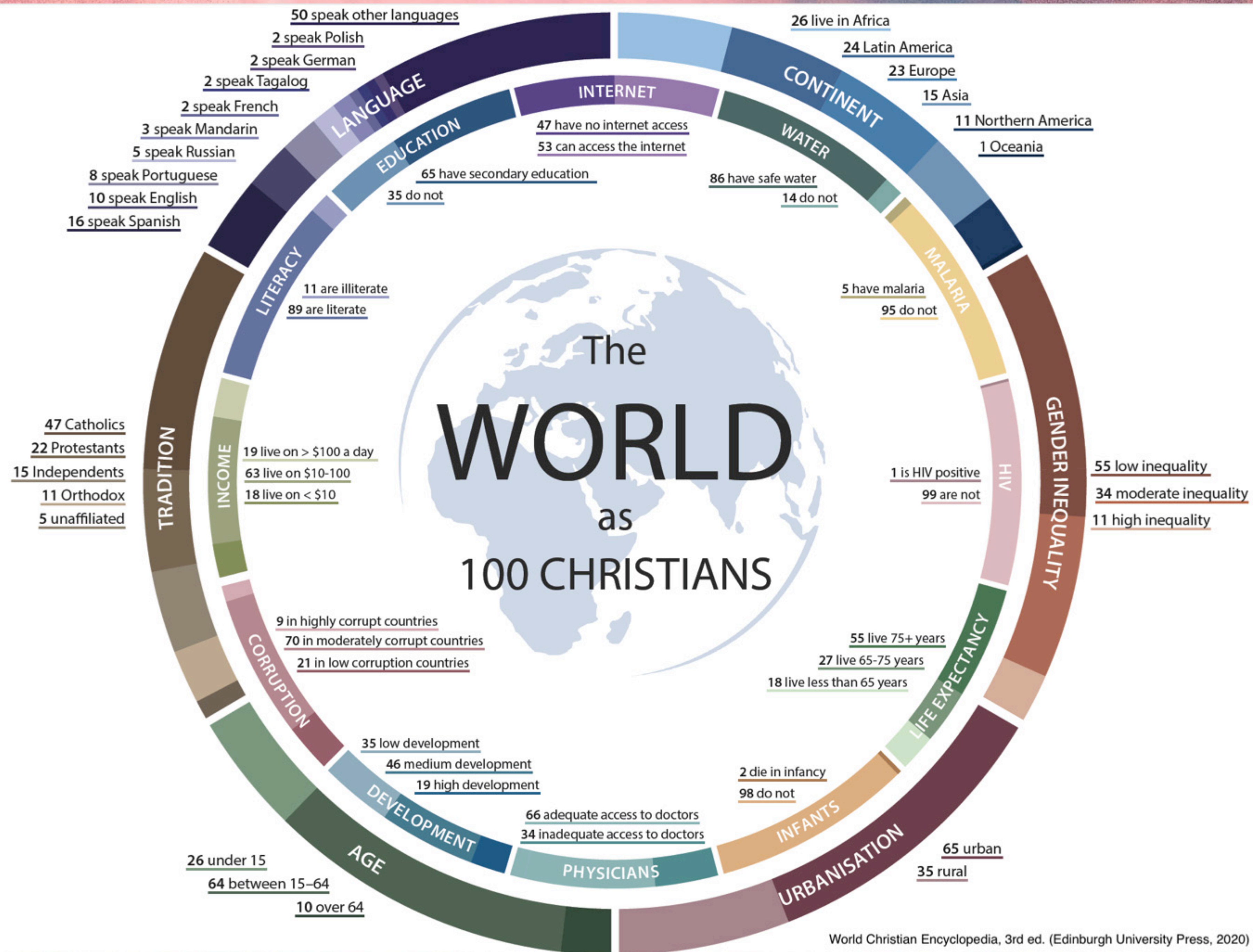
God's borders aren't geographical, they're individual.  
His nation isn't a mass of conquered land,  
it's a mass of repentant people.





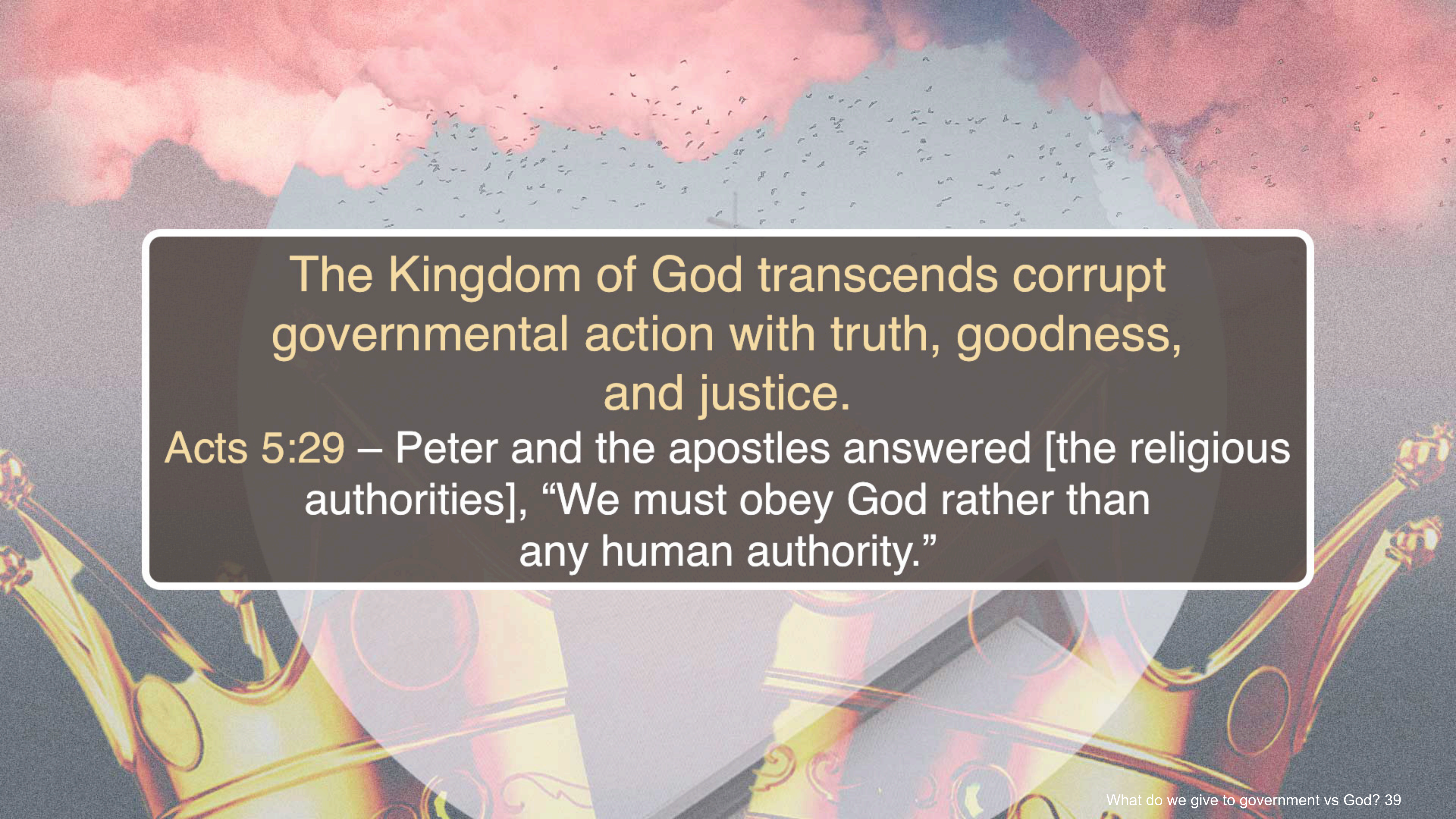
The Kingdom of God transcends  
cultural, racial, ethnic barriers.





World Christian Encyclopedia, 3rd ed. (Edinburgh University Press, 2020)





The Kingdom of God transcends corrupt  
governmental action with truth, goodness,  
and justice.

**Acts 5:29** – Peter and the apostles answered [the religious  
authorities], “We must obey God rather than  
any human authority.”





"God opposes the proud, but gives grace  
to the needy."

- James applies this to us (James 4).
- Jesus applies this to religious leaders (Mt 23).
- David applies it to kings (Psalm 138).



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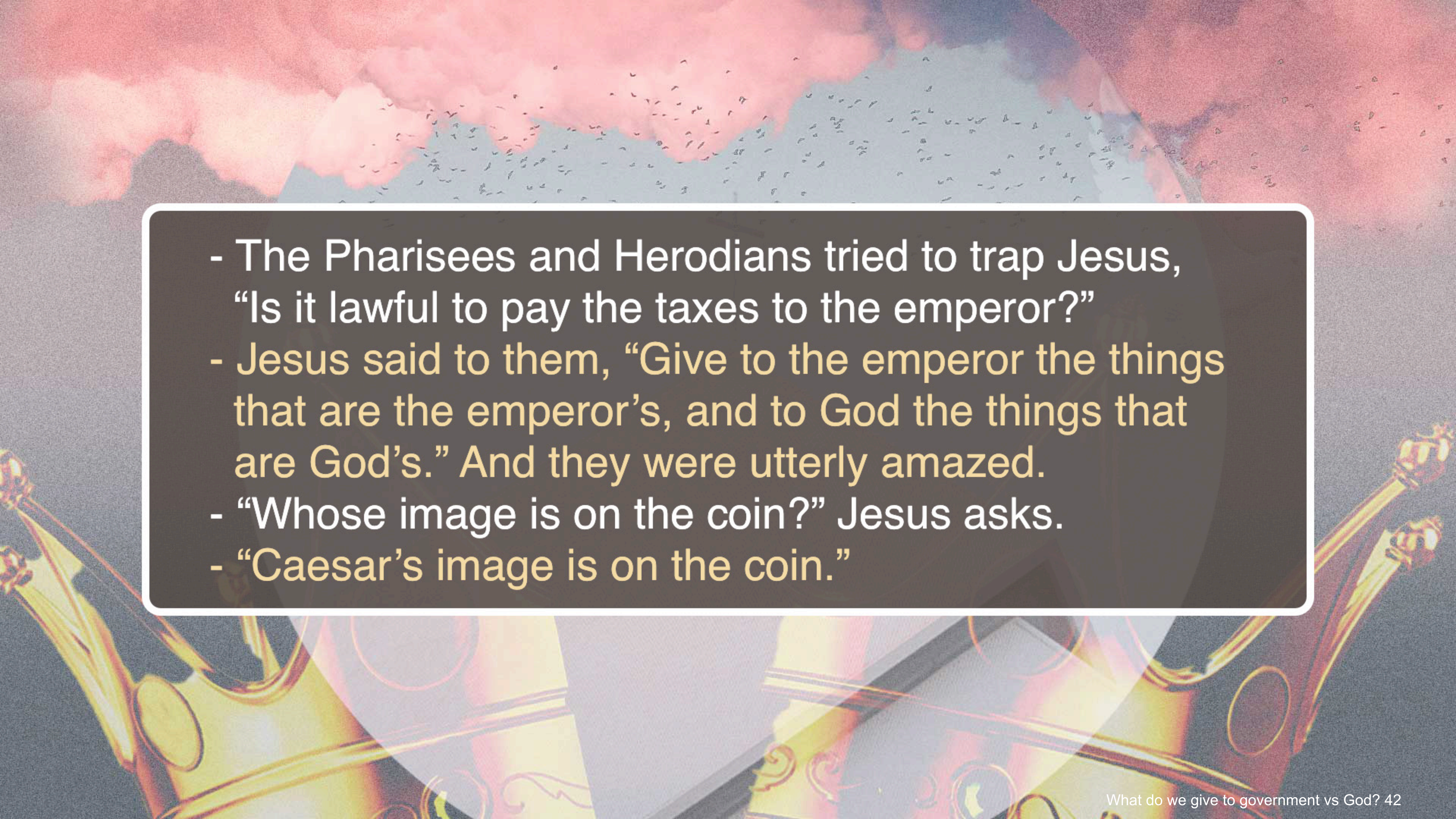
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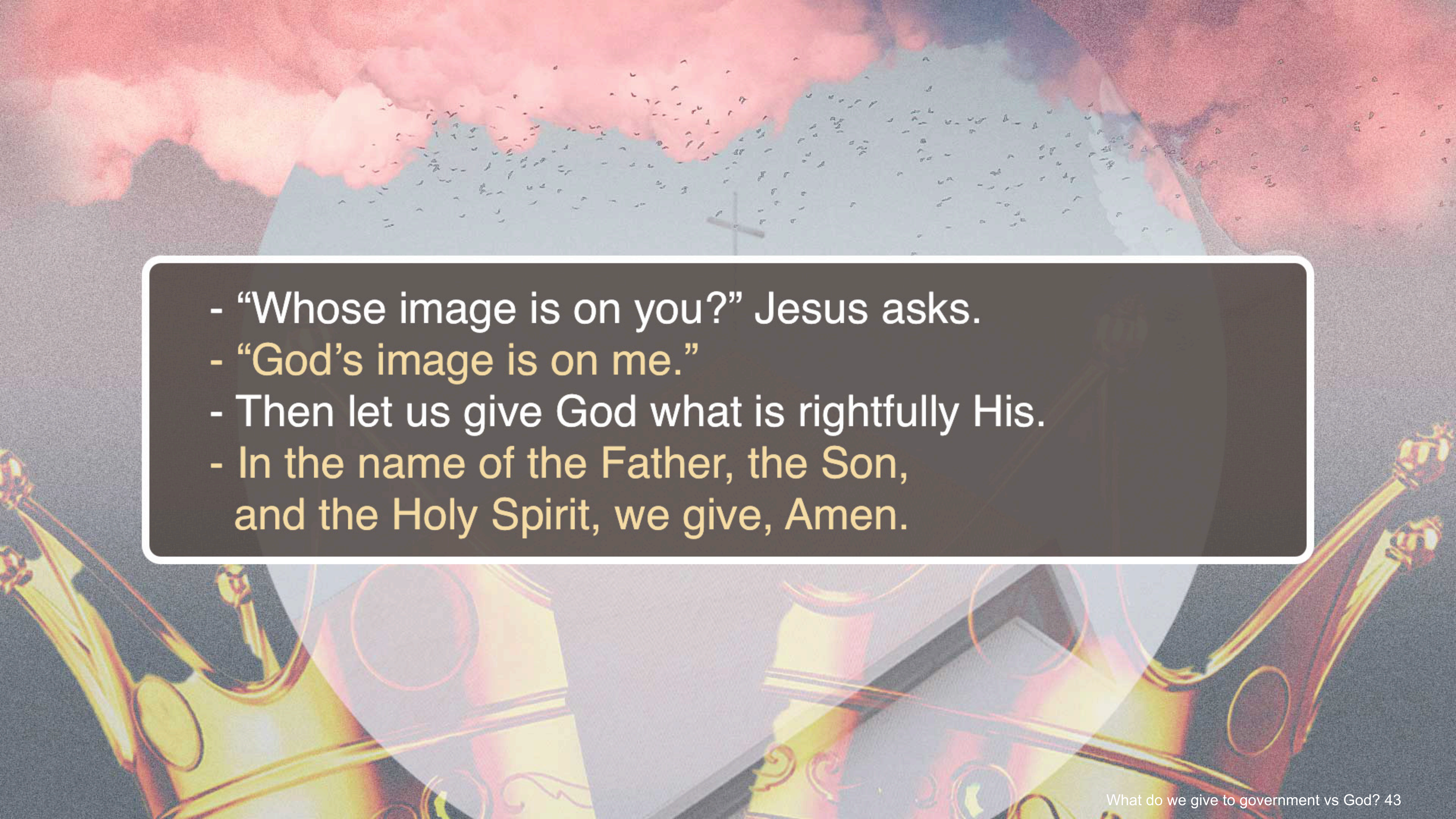
The KOG transcends:

- geographical borders
- cultural, racial, ethnic barriers
- corrupt governmental action with truth, goodness, and justice.



- 
- The Pharisees and Herodians tried to trap Jesus, “Is it lawful to pay the taxes to the emperor?”
  - Jesus said to them, “Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were utterly amazed.
  - “Whose image is on the coin?” Jesus asks.
  - “Caesar’s image is on the coin.”



- 
- “Whose image is on you?” Jesus asks.
  - “God’s image is on me.”
  - Then let us give God what is rightfully His.
  - In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we give, Amen.