



**Speaker:** Matt Magee

**Series:** Christians in the Public Square

**Sermon Title:** Discerning Kingdom Priorities

**Scripture:** [Matthew 22:15-22](#)

**Key Question:** In what ways are you prayerfully, purposefully, and most powerfully prioritizing God's biblical agenda in contrast with the agenda of the world system?

1. Prayerfully perceive political ploys (15-17)
2. Bring biblical clarity to bear on the issue (18-20)
3. Discerningly determine your priority as God's image-bearer (21-22)
  - created in His image
  - indwelt with His very Spirit

**FREE RESOURCES** (Also at table in back):

1. Owen Strachan, *Voting and the Church: Why Christians Engage the Public Square* (<https://www.drjamesdobson.org/voting-and-the-church-ebook>).
2. Rick Thomas, *Politics and Culture* (<https://lifeovercoffee.com/product/politics-and-culture/>).
3. Christians Engaged, *Biblical Roadmap to the Party Platforms: A non-partisan reference guide for the 2024 General Elections* (<https://christiansengaged.org/platform-roadmap>).

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

(Be sure you consider question 10 even if you skip other questions.)

1. Think of a situation when someone has tried to pull the wool over your eyes. Without sharing unnecessary details and gossiping, how did you figure out what they were doing? Share a time when you sought to pull the wool over someone else's eyes.

2. What do the following passages teach us about how to discern, or know with God's wisdom, the difference between the world system and God's kingdom system (Matt. 22:15-22 and James 1:27, 4:4; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 2:15-17; 1 Jn 4:4-6; 1 Jn 5:4-5)? Consider dividing the verses up among your group.
3. What do the following verses teach us about the relationship between honesty and flattery (Proverbs 5:8-9; 28:23; Romans 16:18)?
4. What are some political issues that are legal, but unbiblical? (Reference passages, or biblical themes even if you can't remember the chapter and verse.) When are Christians to "disobey" what government says?
5. What biblical principles cause a stir with the public?
6. In what ways can we discern political motivations behind questions or issues we face in our own lives?
7. What are similarities and differences between believers calling believers to live according to God's Word and believers calling non-Christians to believe the Gospel and live according to God's truth? In other words, how do we herald the beauty of God's truth, call for God's moral standards, and yet realize the lost people are not going to walk in the Spirit?
8. How can we prioritize God's agenda in our everyday decision-making, particularly in regards to civic responsibilities?
9. What does Jesus mean when He says to render to God what is God's, and how does that apply to our lives today?
10. What is the most important way you need to apply this to your life now?