

Christ, Caesar, and Conscience

In, but not of, the world.” Often quoted, but how do we actually live like this, especially in the public square, particularly when the State (Caesar) disfavors, or even discourages, vibrant religious practice? Does Christ the Lord and His Gospel call us to retreat, accommodate, or transform our cultural circumstances? This session joins a robust Christian anthropology with a theology of Lordship to examine how today’s Christian leaders ought to engage the dead world with Christ’s living water . . . and explores how we should act when Caesar frowns on that conduct. Participants will freshly see what “obeying God rather than man” looks like in Europe today, because Christ has overcome the world.

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I. Introduction

A Night at the Museum . . .

II. Discussion

- A. Does Man have a Nature and is it Religious?
 - a. Fixed Human Nature?

b. Belief, Worship and/or Exercise?

B. Does Caesar have a “Job Description” and if so, what is it?

a. Function

b. Jurisdiction

c. The Role of Mediating Institutions:

i. Family

ii. Church

iii. Associations

iv. Local governments

C. Apostolic Missional Examples:

a. Living *Under* Caesar

b. Living *in Spite of* Caesar

D. Lessons for Today Implication Religious Liberty

a. Harassment and “Hate Speech” Codes

b. Parental Autonomy

c. Church Autonomy

d. The Right of Conscientious Objection