



## Small group study materials, July/August 2019

### Chapter & verse – Kevin Snyman (page 16)

Read Mark 12:13-17, followed by Kevin Snyman's article.

1. Kevin begins by telling Franz Jägerstätter's story, which he describes as 'one of the 20th century's most courageous examples of Christian discipleship'. What other examples of Christian discipleship can you think of, and what tools or qualities do you think helped those people walk the way of Jesus?
2. Mark 12:13 explains that the Pharisees and Herodians wanted to trap Jesus using his own words. What emotions might you experience if you were Jesus in that situation? What tools can we equip ourselves with in situations when we're asked to defend what we believe?
3. In verse 17, Jesus says: 'Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' These words have been interpreted in various ways. How would you explain Jesus' meaning?
4. Kevin's seventh paragraph highlights the consequences of corporate tax avoidance, saying that 'funds from fair taxation, could be used to provide clean water, healthcare and education'. If you were in government, how would you suggest this money be spent? Why?
5. The monetary system 'has inequality, bankruptcy, slavery and death built into its very foundation', says Kevin. Are there any positives to money? Is the monetary system good, bad, or neither?
6. Kevin goes on to argue that Jesus would not approve of Christians using the debt-based system of money. Do you agree? Why?
7. 'Another world is possible,' argues Kevin in the final paragraph of his article. Can you imagine what a world without money would look like? If not, why? How might you feel in such a world?

**For further reflection:** 'The lover of money will not be satisfied with money; nor the lover of wealth, with gain. ...' Ecclesiastes 5:10

# Reform

NEWS COMMENT INSPIRATION DEBATE

Kevin Snyman Chapter & verse  
"Render unto Caesar" may be more all-encompassing than we'd imagined



Kevin Snyman is a senior lecturer in the Department of Economics, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. He is also a frequent speaker at various events and has written several books on economic and social issues.

**"We must wake up to the power of money"**

Kevin Snyman is a senior lecturer in the Department of Economics, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. He is also a frequent speaker at various events and has written several books on economic and social issues.

**Prayer:** Father, we thank you for the abundance of the world we live in. Help us to make our way through it more justly and more generously, we pray. Amen.

To subscribe to **Reform**, visit [bit.ly/rfmprint](http://bit.ly/rfmprint) or call **01371 851 886**.  
To try the next three issues for £1, visit [bit.ly/rfm34new](http://bit.ly/rfm34new).

For more Bible study material based on *Reform's* articles, *God is with us: fresh responses to the good news* is available for £7 from the URC shop. Visit [bit.ly/urcv18](http://bit.ly/urcv18)