



"And now I am no more in the world,  
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance  
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®  
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

### **WORSHIPPING THE STATUS QUO?**

A sacrosanct element of American policy for the last 55 years has been the country's trade embargo with Cuba. The policy was implemented following the 1959 communist takeover of that island nation by Fidel Castro; the policy was further cemented by the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. But the political deep freeze between the two countries began to thaw recently when President Obama ordered restoration of diplomatic relations. Certain members of both major U.S. political parties quickly voiced opposition, vowing to resist changing the longstanding status quo.

### **WORSHIPPING THE LORD**

We frequently assume that the status quo is the only way things can be. Jesus' disciples, for their part, "knew" that a flesh and blood person could not walk on water, so they assumed that what they were seeing was a disembodied spirit. The result was fear. But changed understanding that resulted in appropriate worship did come.

1. What biblical reasons can Christians advance for changing or not changing the political status quo with Cuba?
2. What role should Christian faith play in forming our opinions about geopolitical matters, if any?
3. In what ways can it be said that people "worship" the status quo in various areas of life?
4. How may hanging onto things as they have always been interfere with worshipping the Lord appropriately?
5. How does resistance to seeing things in a different way inhibit the Lord's work personally and as a body of believers today?
6. When was a time that a willingness to look beyond the status quo resulted in the Lord's leading you in a new direction?

—Charles R. Boatman

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