

## Romans 13

### v.1 Be subject to the governing authorities

- God puts each one in power- this does not relieve us of our responsibility in government, voting speaking out

- Why are there then sometimes bad rulers ?

1) God will give a country what it deserves, the rulers in Scripture are often if not always a reflection of those they lead and vice versa.

2) God uses evil rulers to prepare people for both repentance and judgment.

### v.2 To resist this is to resist God's plan- How do we deal with evil leadership ?

- *2 Chronicles 7:14 "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

- *1 Peter 2:13-16 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men; as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.*

- *1 Timothy 2:1-2 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*

- judgment on those who resist- not punishment from God but consequences of breaking the law- speed and get a ticket, cheat on taxes and pay penalty or go to jail, etc.

### v.3 If we are doing what we are suppose to, then we have nothing to fear from them.

v.4 God's ministers- same word as deacon- those taking care of physical needs of the people, this implies that the government could be God's vehicle for welfare to those who need it as well as police, fire, military protection, roads, sewage, water, etc.

- bear the sword- in the Roman world this meant specifically capital punishment, there is talk today about the unfairness of who is executed, the answer is not doing away with it but in making sure it is ministered fairly to all deserving.

**v.5** Keep the law so we won't be punished but also because we know it is right to.

**v.6** taxes are God ordained

**v.7** Render what is due- this is where the question is answered about obeying ungodly government ordinances, such as denying the faith, compromising the church with ungodly practices like same sex marriages, etc. , if it conflicts with God's ordinance it is not due

- *Mark 12:17 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at Him.*

**v.8** This does not refer really to finances but our attitude toward each other, what we are obligated to give them is love.

- Love is the fulfillment vs goal of the law- we love because the law has been fulfilled in us through Jesus (sanctification)

**v.9-10** We don't submit to these things simply because they are lawful but because we love. One motivation in being faithful to my wife is not the law but I know the hurt I would cause her by my sin.

**v.11 Do this- not just a attitude of non-sin but actively participating**

- it is time to awaken out of sleep- to what purpose- remember this is all part of being the living sacrifice from chapter 12, verse 1.

- salvation- deliverance from this life, not saving knowledge

**v.12** We should have a sense of urgency about our lives and the gospel

- cast off- not subdue but remove and throw away- see also Ephesians 4:17-24

- works of darkness vs armor of light- we will be clothed with something- you don't put new clean clothes over dirt and rags

**v.13** Walk ( live our lives ) properly (decent, honestly) as in the day ( when we are exposed)

- revelry- sensual partying, it is not wrong for Christians to have a good time but we should not be seeking the sensualness of the world

- drunkenness- intoxicated not just on alcohol but he things this world has to

get high on

- licentiousness- sexual passion outside the bounds of marriage
- lewdness- crude, shameful behavior
- strife- ultimately that struggle for power, which is the root of the squabbles

we have

- envy- root of strife- in essence not submitting to God's plan for our lives but seeking that which others have in whatever area

**v.14** Put on Jesus- His righteousness- to do this we must put off ours

- make no provision- get rid of that which allows us to sin, we know what those things are, but want to hang onto them

- if we remove the things that tempt our flesh, we give our flesh less to give into