

## ROMANS CHAPTER 13

- Versus 1-7     The Christian's attitude and actions toward the governing authorities.
- Versus 8-10    No debt, but love!
- Versus 11-14   A call to the believer to WAKE UP! Jesus Christ is coming!  
Put the Lord Jesus Christ on now!

vs. 1           Statement of Fact revealed by God Himself. Any and all authority finds its source in God Himself. Said another way, "all (authorities) are established by God".  
Dan. 2:37-38; 4:17, 24-25; John 19:10-11

Failure to submit to authority is called "lawlessness".

1 John 3:4     "Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness."

2 Thess. 2:1-12     The coming antichrist is called (1) the man of lawlessness – vs. 3; (2) that lawless one – vs.8; and that which is produced by his presence is called "the mystery of lawlessness" – vs. 7.

NOTE: This truth is not conditional. We are not talking about the good magistrates. "There is no power but of God!"

Because of the above truth, the application given at the beginning of the verse is absolute and universal. To be in subjection means to render them their due respect and obedience – vs. 7.

Lawlessness is contempt for authority. It involves a spirit of refusing control, and lawlessness is behind all law breaking.

vs. 2      Therefore he who resists...has opposed...God!

How does this teaching reconcile with passages like Acts 4:5-22, esp. vs. 19? Could it not be reasoned as follows:

1. As to our property and earthly things, we are subject to the powers that God has placed over us.
2. As to our conscience and spiritual things that we understand that God rules over directly, we obey God rather than man.
3. We maintain this position with the full awareness that often there is a price required from those who take such a stand.
4. We are careful to make sure that, when we oppose earthly authority, we are standing on solid Biblical grounds.

Those who oppose God can expect condemnation upon themselves.

Verses 3 and 4 give us the basis for following the teaching found in verse 1.

vs. 3      The believer is to live his life with anticipation that life will reflect what is taught here. 1Pet. 3:17 clearly teaches that the result of living right is not always the same, but our responsibility to live right never changes. 1 Pet. 2:18-21

vs. 4      It is a minister of God to you (believer) for good. (See the passages from 1 Peter along with Romans 8:28). Human (earthly) authority does not bear the sword for nothing. Gen. 9:5-6    Again, all governing authorities are a minister of God.

vs. 5      Christians are to be in subjection, not only to avoid earthly retribution, but also because of the affect that “sin” has upon our conscience. In short, knowing that being in subjection results in doing right and avoiding trouble.

vs. 6      The individuals that God places in these positions are “ministering” servants (same word describes the function of

angels, Heb. 1:14, and the Old Testament Priests, Heb. 10:11

The function they perform warrants their being compensated through taxation.

They devote themselves to (serving or collecting taxes?)

vs. 7 A Christian is called to be a model citizen.

Taxation heads up the list because a person's failure often begins in the area of money.

While tax is paid directly by a citizen to its ruling nation, Luke 20:22-25, custom is a duty attached to our goods. "Black market", under the table, cash transactions are often another practice, which violates this clear teaching from God.

Fear represents a conscientious regard for and awe of men in whose hands God has placed governmental authority.

Honor is our attitude of reverence for the persons whom God has placed in authority over us. 1 Pet. 2:17

By application: People of means often are in a position of authority over us. Who decides who is to have and who is not to have? What does anyone have that they do not owe God thanks for having it? Should not the Christian be first to give "honor to whom honor is due?"

vs. 8 Verse 7 says to render to all what is "due" them. Verse 8 says all are due love!

We are to owe no one in the areas covered in verse 7. But having said that, we never satisfy the need to love one another.

Paul learned this truth from Jesus. Matt. 22:35-40

John tells us the extent that Jesus took this teaching. 1John 2:7-11

vs. 9 It is not law-doing which satisfies the Law. The one who loves has exhibited what the Law sought. The Law describes how love acts.

vs. 10 Love seeks the fulfillment and protection of a neighbor. Love Therefore is the fulfillment of the Law. See 1 Cor. 13:1-13

vs. 11 We are to do (not believe) all that precedes this because He is coming. Whether in the rapture or at the hour of our death, He is coming. 1 John 2:28-29; 3:2-3.

vs. 12 The night is almost gone – life is but a mist that awaits the rising of the Son. When we least expect Him, He will appear.

Let us therefore...

1. lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light
2. Eph. 4:22-24 – lay aside the old self...be renewed in the Spirit of our mind...put on the new self.
3. Col. 3:8-17 – put aside...put on...
4. 1 Pet. 4:7 – Be of sound judgment and sober spirit.
5. Eph. 6:10-18

vs. 13 Men choose darkness. 1 Thess. 5:4-9 We are sons of light, sons of the day.

Let us behave properly...not in:

1. carousing and drunkenness – often nocturnal activities; Paul's day probably didn't differ much from our day.
2. sexual promiscuity and sensuality; 1 Cor. 6:15-20; Heb. 13:4
3. strife and jealousy. 1 Cor. 3:3; Col. 3:8

vs. 14 Let us not practice those things mentioned in verse 13, but rather, "put on the Lord Jesus Christ". (Positionally, we have "put on" the moment we were saved.) Gal. 3:27

Paul is telling us to allow our practice to match our position. Eph. 5:8

Let us stop “making provision” for the lusts of our flesh.

Sin rarely creeps up upon us.

We plan for it. We so often see it coming and position ourselves so that we “get caught by it”.

Deliverance is an active verb.

Without Him, we cannot be delivered. He has called us to share in that deliverance.

Deliverance from the sin that so easily entangles us is God’s desire for us, but as shown before in this epistle, Rom. 6:11-13, 10:9-13, it requires our participation.