

The Book of Romans

VI. Paul *Directs* the **Believers** concerning their **Spiritual Life** and **Service** before **God** and **One Another** (12:1-15:13)

A. He *Exhorts* them to *fully* **Commit** to **Serving God**, and **Living** according to **His will** (12:1-2)

B. He *Explains* to them regarding the **Exercise** of the **Gifts** of **Grace** that have been **given them** (12:3-8)

C. He *Expresses* what should **Characterize** their **Life** and **Service** as **Believers** (12:9-13:14)

1. *Describing* what should **Characterize** their **Ministry** as a **body of Believers** (12:9-13)

2. *Declaring* what their **Response** should be to **Adversity** (12:14-21)

3. *Determining* what their **Relationship** should be to **Governing Authorities** (13:1-7)

a. *Requiring them* to be in **Submission** to **Governing Authorities** (13:1-2)

13 Every person is to be in **subjection** to the **governing authorities**.
For there is **no authority** except *from God*,
and **those** which **exist** are ***established by God***.

²Therefore whoever **resists authority** has ***opposed*** the **ordinance of God**;
and they who have ***opposed*** will receive **condemnation** upon **themselves**.

b. *Recognizing* that **Authorities** are **Established** for the **Good** of **Society** (13:3-5)

³For **rulers** are **not** a cause of ***fear*** for **good** **behavior**, but for **evil**.
Do you want to have ***no fear*** of **authority**?

Do what is **good** and you will have **praise** from the same;
⁴for it is a ***minister of God*** to you for **good**.

But if you do what is **evil**, be afraid;
for it does not **bear the sword** for nothing;
for it is a ***minister of God***,
an ***avenger*** who brings **wrath** on the one who **practices evil**.

c. *Reiterating* the Reasons to be **Subject** to **Authorities** (13:5)

⁵ Therefore it is **necessary** to be in subjection,
not only because of wrath, but also for **conscience' sake**.

d. *Rendering* to **Authorities** that which is Due to them (13:6-7)

⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for **rulers** are **servants of God**,
devoting themselves to this very thing.

⁷ Render to **all** what is due them: tax to whom **tax is due**;
custom to whom **custom**;
fear to whom **fear**;
honor to whom **honor**.

4. *Disclosing* their Obligation to Love One Another (13:8-10)

⁸ Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another;
for he who loves his neighbor has **fulfilled the law**.

⁹ For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT **ADULTERY**,
YOU SHALL NOT **MURDER**, YOU SHALL NOT **STEAL**, YOU SHALL NOT **COVET**,"
and if there is any other **commandment**,
it is **summed up** in this saying, "

YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

¹⁰ Love does **no wrong** to a neighbor;
therefore love is the **fulfillment** of **the law**.

5. *Denoting* their **Need** to Live in the **Light** of "Day" (13:11-14)

¹¹ Do this, knowing the **time**,
that it is already **the hour** for you to awaken from **sleep**;
for **now** salvation is **nearer to us** than when **we believed**.

¹² The night is **almost gone**, and the day is **near**.
Therefore let us lay aside the **deeds of darkness**
and put on the **armor of light**.

¹³ Let us behave properly as in the day,
not in **carousing** and **drunkenness**,
not in **sexual promiscuity** and **sensuality**,
not in **strife** and **jealousy**.

¹⁴ But put on the **Lord Jesus the Messiah**,
and make **no provision** for the **flesh** in regard to **its lusts**.

Message Summary and Application

3 Key Teaching Themes

1. *Believers* are to Submit themselves to Governing Authorities (13:1-7)

- a. **Realizing** that **Governing Authorities** have been **Ordained** by **God** (13:1-2)
 - b. **Recognizing** that **Authorities** are **Established** for the **Good** of **Society** (13:3-4)
 - 1) **Established** not for the **punishment** of **good** behavior (13:3)
 - 2) **Established** as a “**minister of God**” to bring **wrath** upon those who practice **evil** (13:4)
 - c. **Recalling** the **key Reasons** to **Submit** to **Governing Authorities** (13:5)
 - 1) to **escape judgment** (13:5a)
 - 2) to **live in good** “**conscience**” before **God** (13:5b)
 - d. **Rendering** to **Authorities** that which is **Due to them** (13:6-7)
2. **Believers** are **Obligated** to **Love One Another** (13:8-10)
- a. For **Love** is the **Fulfillment** of the **Law** (13:8-9)
 - b. For **Love** does **No wrong** to a **Neighbor** (13:10)
3. **Believers** are to **Live** in the **Light of “Day,”** and according to **Righteousness** (13:11-14)
- a. **Laying aside** the **deeds of darkness** (13:12a)
 - b. **Putting on** the “**armor of light**” (13:12b)
 - c. **Behaving** as those who **live** as “**in the Day**” (13:13)
 - a) **not** in **carousing** and **drunkenness** (13:13a)
 - b) **not** in **sexual promiscuity** and **sensuality** (13:13b)
 - c) **not** in **strife** and **jealousy** (13:13c)
 - d. “**Putting on**” the **characteristics** of **Messiah** (13:14)

Some *Challenging* Questions →

As **Believers** we are to **Submit** to **Governing Authorities**, but... →

- What if the *governing authorities* are **corrupt** and **dishonest**? Do I still need to **submit** to them?
- What if the *governing authorities* **order me** to do that which is **evil**, or to **violate** what I know to be the **will of God**? Do I **submit**?

- What if the *governing authorities* are using my **taxes** for **corrupt** and **evil purposes**? Do I still have to **pay taxes**?
- What if the *governing authorities* are **directly** and **physically persecuting me** and **my family**? Do we have the **right** to **defend ourselves**?

Biblical Response → God has **ordained** that there should be **human government** (Genesis 9:5), and has **established governing authorities** (13:1). However, even though they **fulfill** the role of being His “**servants**” (13:4), it does **not *always*** mean that they are **just** or **righteous** in exercising their **authority**.

Because of this, there are **times** when it becomes **necessary** to **resist** and **disobey governing authorities**, particularly when they **oppress** and **demand** that **believers** violate their **conscience** and **disobey** what they know is a “**higher law**” from **God**. **Messiah’s disciples** dealt with this early in their **ministry**:

And when they (the **counsel**) had summoned them, they **commanded them not** to **speak** or **teach** at all in the **name of Jesus**.

But **Peter** and **John** answered and said to them,
 “Whether it is **right** in the **sight of God** to give **heed to you**
rather than **to God**, ***you*** be the **judge**;..” (Acts 4:18-19)

But **Peter** and the **apostles** answered and said,
 “We must **obey God** ***rather*** than **men**.” (Acts 5:29)

Regarding Taxes → They questioned **Him**, saying,
 “**Teacher**, we know that **You speak** and **teach *correctly***,..

Is it **lawful** for us to **pay taxes** to **Caesar**, or **not**?...”

And **He (Messiah)** said to them, “...
render to **Caesar** the things that are **Caesar’s**,
 and **to God** the things that are **God’s**.” (Luke 20:21a, 22, 25)

Regarding Self Defense →

From that day on, **half** of **my servants** carried on **the work** while **half** of them held the **spears**, the **shields**, the **bows** and the **breastplates**; and the **captains** were behind the **whole house of Judah**.

Those who were **rebuilding the wall** and those who **carried burdens** took ***their load*** with **one hand** doing the **work** and the **other** holding a **weapon**. As for the **builders**, each wore his **sword** girded at his side ***as he built***, while the **trumpeter** stood near me. (Nehemiah 4:16-18)