ROMANS 13

**Submission to the Authorities**

**Romans 13:1** Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

* Many of us struggle with the absolute declaration to obey the Government here in V1… Especially after a year of the Government forbidding us to gather, congregate, go out and to socialize…
* **THEY have been caught** on camera doing these things that they forbade us to do – And that just burns me up!!!
* But… This is not the only place that the scripture says to obey the authorities. Listen to Peter:
* **1 Peter 2:13** Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14 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. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—
* SO… What do we do when we think we have a corrupt government? How do we respond when our government is anti-God? If only we had a few examples in the Bible to lead us, right? People like:
	+ Abraham… Daniel… Moses… Joshua… Caleb… Nehemiah… Ezra… Ruth… David… The Disciples… And ultimately Jesus Christ who taught us to give unto Caesar the things that belong unto Caesar and give to God those things that belong to God.
	+ Is there an easy answer to when to obey the Government and when to resist? Sorry, no. Here is some scripture though…

2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

* There are many ways to resist and change the government… Taking up arms and attempting to force a change is NOT what we as Christians are called to do.
* The best weapon we have against a corrupt government is the ballot box. I encourage you to research the candidates and the ballot initiatives and vote!
	+ Download the suggested voter’s guides from organizations you know and trust… Read up on who is sponsoring the bills and who is resisting them, and VOTE!

**WHY DO WE OBEY?**

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

* Paul says to do our best to be good citizens!

4 For he ***(The government official)*** is God's minister to you for good.

* Sometimes, Pastor’s in building mode struggle with this truth… If you really are trying to do us good, why do you require expensive tests on our walls that you never have required from any of the owner’s other tenants or buildings? BUT… OK, here is your expensive tests results…

4b But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil. (It is far better to be in compliance than to attract the wrath of the government)

5 Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

* Exceptions? YES… When Government decides WHO we worship… We resists and deal with the wrath. We avoid the wrath of God before the wrath of Government!
* **Chuck Smith** – A great example in this: Does your heart rate jump when you see a police car in your rear view mirror? IF you are driving in compliance with the laws of the land you are without guilt, RIGHT?
* Avoid this stress by driving the speed limit. Obey the laws.

**PAY YOUR TAXES!**

6 For because of this you also pay **taxes**, for they are God's ministers **attending continually** to this very thing.

7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due,* customs to whom customs, ***(Do not try to sneak things by)*** fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

**Fulfilling the Law Through Love**

8 Owe no one anything ***(IE, pay your bills)*** except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

* Love really is the key to righteous living! If you are actively showing love for one another you are doing well!
* Love God first… Then love people!
* Here are some other laws:

9 For the commandments, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," "YOU SHALL NOT MURDER," "YOU SHALL NOT STEAL," "YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS," "YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if *there is* any other commandment, are *all* summed up in this saying, namely, "**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF**."

10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love *is* the fulfillment of the law. **Beloved… Work hard at getting along with your neighbors. Yo may be the only bible they ever read.**

**ARE YOU WATCHING THE CLOCK?**

11 And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

* Why do you suppose that God never gives a date for the return of Jesus for his church?
* He did so for the first appearance of Messiah in Daniel 9… How many people were ready for THAT advent? Several Wise men is all…
* I believe that God wants His Church is a perpetual state of readiness… Like a family who is ready for the baby to be born… They never know the exact day or time if it is a “normal” birth… BUT, they know when it is near, right?
	+ IS THE COMING of the Lord for His church near? YES!
	+ BE READY! Don’t be caught up in the world… Partying like a pagan.
	+ Don’t be in relationship that is sinful. Don’t let sin have a comfortable place in your heart OR your home. ***INSTEAD…***

13 Let us walk properly, ***(Decently)*** as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

14 But put on ***(Sink into like a wetsuit)*** the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

SO… What should we do with believers who HAVE sunk back into the world? The next chapter tells us: **NLT** - Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong.

Love God – Love People!