



HOW TO LIVE IN A BROKEN WORLD

GOSPEL LIFE: ROMANS SERIES: EPISODE 15 OF 19

Romans 13

MAIN IDEA: THE GOSPEL TRANSFORMS HOW BELIEVERS RESPOND TO AUTHORITY, TREAT PEOPLE, AND LIVE IN A DARKENING WORLD.

I. CHRISTIANS SHOULD RESPECT GOD-ORDAINED AUTHORITY (13:1–7)

A. AUTHORITY ULTIMATELY COMES FROM GOD (13:1)

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. 13:1 NIV

B. GOVERNMENT RESTRAINS EVIL (13:2–4)

Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 13:2 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. 13:3 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. 13:4

C. BELIEVERS SHOULD LIVE HONORABLY (13:5–7)

Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. 13:5-7

II. CHRISTIANS SHOULD LIVE MARKED BY LOVE (13:8–10)

A. Love is a continuing debt (13:8)

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. 13:8 NIV

B. LOVE FULFILLS THE LAW (13:9–10)

The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. 13:9-10 NIV

III. CHRISTIANS SHOULD LIVE WITH SPIRITUAL URGENCY (13:11–14)

A. WAKE UP SPIRITUALLY (13:11)

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 13:11 NIV

B. DARKNESS IS FADING; LIGHT IS COMING (13:12)

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13:12 NIV

C. PUT OFF DARKNESS AND PUT ON CHRIST (13:13–14)

Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. 13:13-14

APPLICATIONS

1. Respect authority without worshiping authority.
2. Be known for love, not hostility.
3. Wake up spiritually.
4. Live with eternity in view.
5. Put on Christ daily.

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