

Romans Lesson 14

1. Subject to the Government (13:1-2)

1.1. Every soul is to be subject to the governing authorities

- All authority exists as a result of God's will. God favors order over chaos (Gen. 1; 1 Cor. 14)
- All authority has been appointed by God
- Resisting governing authorities is therefore resisting God
 - Exceptions made for improper conduct (Dan. 3; Acts 4:19)
 - Brings judgment upon those who disobey

1.2. Role of the Ruler (13:3-4)

- Rulers do not harass the obedient, but they do pursue the disobedient
 - Do what is asked of you and they may praise you
 - Perhaps they will may leave you alone
- Rulers are God's ministers to those who do good
 - They serve God by keeping order
 - They run His errands and avenge His justice on earth
- If you do evil, be afraid
 - Of the ruling authorities
 - Of God who has appointed them to execute wrath against disorder and lawlessness

1.3. Christian Response to Government (13:5-7)

- Therefore, be subject to authorities
 - To avoid their wrath
 - To maintain a good conscience
 - Pay taxes, for God appointed the rulers as His ministers to attend to their collection and use in government
- Render to all their due
 - Taxes to whom they are due (state and local taxes)
 - Customs to whom customs are due (tolls on goods bought/sold)
 - Fear to whom fear is due (reverence for those in authority)

- Honor to whom honor is due (honor of rank or status, not personal character)

1.4. A Life of Brotherly Love (13:8-10)

- Have no outstanding/past due debts to a brother
 - Owing love is encouraged, owing unpaid financial debt is not
 - The Law is fulfilled through brotherly love (James 2:8)
- All the commandments are summed up in the saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
 - Love does no harm to a neighbor (not paying a debt)
 - Love fulfills the Law

1.5. The Reason for Obedience (13:11-14)

- We are to live in accordance with His will and righteousness
 - It is high time to wake from our sleep (ignorance)
 - Our salvation is nearer than when we first believed
 - It is long past time to cast off the works of darkness
 - We need to put on the armor of light and walk properly as in those in the daytime
 - Not in revelry and drunkenness
 - Not in lewdness and lust
 - Not in strife and envy
- Put on Christ and make no provision for the flesh

2. Jesus Christ is Our Judge (14:1-6)

2.1. How we treat those weak in their faith

2.2. How refrain from disputes over doubtful things (essential doctrine vs. doubtful things) ...

- Some doctrines are clear and understandable in Scripture
 - Creation
 - Salvation by faith in Christ alone
 - Authority of Scripture
- Some doctrines are subject to wide-ranging views and human interpretations leading to disputes
 - End-times

- Mystery of Christ's two-fold nature as God and Man
- Trinity
- God's election
- Worship styles and volumes
- Over what we eat, or refrain from eating (meat or vegetables)
- How we honor our days (Sabbath, Sunday, all)
- Each should act in accordance to how convinced he is in his own mind
- Each observes a day in honor to the Lord, or to the Lord he does not honor a day that others do

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3. We Do Not Live to Ourselves Alone (14:7-13)

3.1. We neither live or die apart from God's authority

- Our lives are in His hands always.
- If we are alive, we owe God thanks for the life we live
- If we die, then we die according to the will of God
- Regardless of life or death, believers are the Lord's

3.2. It is for this reason that Christ died and rose and lived again

- To be Lord of the dead
 - Those who died believing in the promises of God before He went to the cross
 - Those who remain dead in their trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1)
- To be Lord of the living – those who are a living sacrifice to Him (12:1-2)

3.3. Since Christ is Lord of the living and the dead, how you anyone else judge or show contempt for a brother?

- Each person will stand before the judgement seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10)

- Paul ascribes the reference to the LORD in Isaiah 45:14-25 (23-24)
 - Each shall give account of himself to God (specifically Jesus Christ)
- 3.4. Therefore, (since each one shall bow before the judgment seat and give account of himself to God)
- Let us not judge one another anymore
 - Rather, be diligent and determined not to put a stumbling block or cause to fall in a brother's way
4. Walk in Brotherly Love (14:14-18)
- 4.1. Do not grieve a brother with the law of liberty
- Nothing is unclean of itself
 - Yet if a brother perceives something to be unclean, my liberty may cause harm to him
 - Flaunted liberty is not an attitude of love
 - Destroying a brother's faith is evil
 - Therefore what you perceive a "good" may, in fact, be evil if it causes a brother to stumble
 - The kingdom is not about liberty in food and drink, but is the source of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit - The one who remembers this as they serve the Lord is acceptable to God and approved by men
- 4.2. Walk in Brotherly Love (14:19-23)
- Pursue the things which make for peace
 - Pursue the things which edify one another
 - Do not destroy the work of God over food
 - All things are pure, but not if they cause offense
 - It is not good to cause another to stumble, to be offended, or to be made weak in faith by the actions of a more mature believer
 - Enjoy your faith with liberty between yourself and God
 - Don't condemn yourself in what you approve
 - If you doubt your liberty, you condemn yourself by a lack of faith
 - Whatever is not of faith is sin