

Adult Sunday School Lesson
Nassau Bay Baptist Church
May 17, 2020

As you watch and listen to the video, please feel free to pause the video for any reason, including to discuss something with others, to take time to look up a verse or passage, or to take a break. Remember, you also are able to go back and to repeat any part.

Read Romans 13:1-14

What an interesting time for this lesson! Romans 13 deals with our relationship to the governing powers in our lives and our relationships with one another and our relationship with Christ.

Today, we want to reverse Paul's order, so we can view to our relationship to governing powers through our relationship with Christ and our relationships with one another. So we will start at the end of the chapter and work back to the beginning.

BECAUSE OF THIS—Read Romans 13:11-14

Know the *kairon*. Know the "moment." The hour is already. NKJV: It is high time!

Awake from your sleep!

Because . . . our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed!

Off and On

The night is nearly over (OFF). The day has drawn near (ON).

Therefore . . . we should **cast OFF** the works of darkness and **put ON** the armor of light.

Walk in daylight (ON). . . **not in** reveling and drinking, not in sexual immorality and lewdness, not in dissension and burning emotion (OFF).

On the contrary, **put ON** the Lord Jesus Christ and . . .

Do not give forethought (OFF) to the desires of the flesh.

Read Ephesians 4:17-24—Write here what you are thinking as you compare this passage with Romans 13:11-14.

WE PUT ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND BECAUSE OF THIS—Now Read Romans 13:8-11

The only debt we should owe another is love.

Love fulfills the Law.

Jesus said, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

Love=Giving of myself, even unto death, for the holiness and righteousness of another.

Love does no *kakos*—worthlessness to a neighbor. What is worthless? Anything less than seeking holiness and righteousness. Anything less than eternal. Anything less than love.

See I Corinthians 13:13.

WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER (NEIGHBORS)—So We Come to Romans 13:1-7.

Okay, I probably lost you. My fault. So let’s review.

Because we put on Christ, we love our neighbors. And because we put on Christ and love our neighbors, we can be and are subject to governing authorities.

Because we do put on Christ and his love, we live to love Him, love one another, and love our neighbors, “to die to ourselves for the holiness and righteousness of others.” Because we put on Christ and love one another and because His return is imminent, we can trust in Him and not fear what others or the government might do. Thus, we live as free.

So what does it mean to “be subject to governing authorities?” What are the governing authorities?

Basically, we can find five governing authorities.

1. Heavenly Government—God/Jesus—All Authority/Holy Spirit.
2. Church Government—Bride of Christ—When following the Word of God closely. Relays and embodies Jesus in His authority.
3. State Government—Authorized by God, but does not supersede Christ’s Bride.
4. Family Government—When following Christ, supersedes State government.
5. Self-Government—Commanded to put on Christ and to live in self-control under His authority.

Five Disciplines.

1. Heavenly Discipline—God/Jesus/Holy Spirit.
2. Church Discipline—Bride and Body of Christ.
3. State Discipline—Punishment and penalty by state.
4. Family Discipline—Correction within the family.
5. Self-Discipline—Correction and control over myself.

Because of the four governments, we can submit to the fifth government, the state. And even in that submission, we are free because we know that the Heavenly government rules over all. Psalm 9:7-10

To Think About. America is different from Rome in an important way. In America, the people are also at the top of the governmental pyramid. So, we have responsibility to submit, and we have responsibility to rule. Write here what you think results from having both responsibilities?

Read 1 Peter 2:13-17.

The command to submit to state government is given both by Paul and by Peter.

But the command to submit is not comprehensive. Exceptions do arise.

Psalm 22:28: "For the kingdom is the Lord's, And He rules over the nations."

Ephesians 1:22: "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church."

Let's Remember Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Nebuchadnezzar set up an image of gold and commanded everyone to worship it. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused. When Nebuchadnezzar threatened to throw them to their deaths in a furnace, they said, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." Daniel 3:16-18

Later, King Darius decreed that whoever prayed to any god other than himself would be thrown in the lion's den to be eaten. Daniel disobeyed Darius and was thrown in among the lions. The next morning, Daniel said to Darius, "O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you." Daniel 6:21-22

In both cases, God's men did not submit to the state government. In both cases, the government had invalidated itself because it went clearly against the Heavenly Government. Something similar happened to Peter and John, who, when they were commanded not to speak about Jesus, said,

“Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” Acts 4:19

So we see some principles.

1. We are to submit to the governing authorities in our lives—God, parents, state, Bible, etc.
Resisting is resisting the ordinance of God.
2. We are to submit both because of the wrath we might face and for conscience’ sake.
3. We are to do what is good.
4. We are to “Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.” Romans 13:7; Matthew 22:15-22
5. When the choice is obeying another authority and obeying God, we must obey God.
6. Since God has given us ruling responsibility in the state government, we are to exercise that with care through being good neighbors, through seeking office, through voting, through advocacy and influence, and through the courts, etc., all in the wisdom of God.