

ROMANS

Chapter 13:1-14

Relationship toward Government, People,
and the Urgency of Christian Behavior

Relationship to Government

- We ended chapter 12 with a reminder that vengeance belongs in the hands of the divine
 - [Rom 12:19](#) Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath *of God*, for it is written:
“VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.
- Paul continues this thought by detailing how God can exact His vengeance via His use of the governments He has allowed to be established on earth.

Relationship to Government

- A Christian has two obligations towards government:
 - 1) Submission: for two reasons
 - Fear of wrath
 - Because of conscience
 - 2) Tribute: for the same two reasons

Relationship to Government

- Submission

- Every person is to be subject to government

- No one rules except by God's permission

- Dan 4:17, 25-26; John 19:10-11

- The consequence of not submitting...

- Resistance of authority is opposition to God

- Opposition to God leads to condemnation

Relationship to Government

- Rulers - God's ordination of order
 - Those doing good need not fear rulers
 - Rulers keep order by punishing evil
 - Rulers praise those who avoid evil and do good
 - Rulers are God's servant:
 - For good for those who do good (i.e. George Bush's thousand points of light)
 - For wrath for those who practice evil
 - Rulers bear the sword to perform vengeance upon those who practice evil (i.e. capital punishment for murderers)

Relationship to Government

- Two reasons for submission
 - “...because of wrath”
 - Fear of punishment
 - “...for the sake of conscience”
 - Because it is right and one ***should be*** limited by one’s conscience (Acts 5:29)

Relationship to Government

- Tribute

- “For because of this you also pay taxes”
 - Continues the thought that fear of wrath and for conscience sake – the same as submission
- “for rulers are servants of God”
 - Divinely appointed
- “Pay to all what is due”
 - Same word Jesus uses (Matt 22:21, Mk 12:17, Lk 20:25)
- Tax, custom, respect, honor

Relationship towards people in general

- “Owe nothing to anyone...”
 - Leave no debt unpaid
 - Not a prohibition of borrowing or credit, but an admonition to pay what you owe (Matt 5:42, Phil 18)
 - “...except to love one another”
 - The debt of love CAN NEVER be paid in full, so that the slate is wiped clean and we don't need to love each other any more.

Relationship towards people in general

- “...for the one who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the Law”
 - The debt of love can never be fully paid because if there were people who were completely loving their neighbor, they would have done what is impossible for fallen men – perfectly fulfilled the law.

Relationship towards people in general

- For this..
 - Introduces specific commandments
 - “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”**
 - Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore love is fulfilment of the law

The urgency of Christian behavior

- We now understand the details of Christian life and we must live as Christians, especially understanding the urgency of this task in the times in which we now live.
 - Salvation is nearer than we believe (Titus 3:5, 1 Tim 4:16) – Romans chapter 8
 - The night is almost gone, and the day is near..
 - Not the approach of the second coming, but "The Light of the World" illuminating the darkness

The urgency of Christian behavior

- “Cast off darkness and put on the armor of light”
 - Weapons of light – 1 Thess 5:8
- “Behave properly...”
 - Not like the Gentiles
 - Carousing(komos), drunkenness(methe), sexual promiscuity(koite), debauchery(aselgia), strife(eris), jealousy(zelosis)
- “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ...” (Gal 3:27)
 - Avoid seeking fleshly lusts

Next week

- Part 1 of 3 of a study of the weak and the strong
- Romans 14:1-15:13
 - Part 1 (14:1-12) Tolerance regarding doubts
 - Part 2 (14:13-23) Walking in Love: Self denial for the good of others
 - Part 3 (15:1-13) Unity in Christ to the glory of God