

Romans chapter 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.**

A. **Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities**

1. **every soul**- Gr. **pas psuche**- *the soul is the mind, will, and emotions and is discernible from the human spirit.* [[1 Thess. 5:23](#), [Heb. 4:12](#)]

- a. In a Christian that part of us that is given to rebellion is our soul, not our spirit. Our spirit has been perfected and is in complete submission to the will of God. It is our soul realm that needs to be renewed to the Word and submitted to God each day.
- b. **Every** soul needs to be submitted to authority. Often, people feel they are the exception to God's Word. They judge others for their actions, but live according to their intentions. All of us need to make sure we are submitted God's authority both spiritual and natural.
- c. Submission is tested at the point of where there is a disagreement. Until this point there is no submission but agreement. Jesus walked in total agreement with the Father until the Garden of Gethsemane. There His will ran contrariwise to the Father's will. However, He said NOT MY WILL be done but YOUR WILL be done. [[Matt. 26:29](#)] This was a difference in wills. Jesus submitted to God's authority in the Garden of Gethsemane.

2. **subject**- Gr. **hupotasso**- *to come under the rank of another- this was a military term*

- a. Biblical submission is never forced. It is something a person voluntarily offers. If submission is forced it ceases to be biblical submission. It becomes slavery.
- b. Whenever roles of authority and submission are listed, the one in submission is always address first. [[Eph. 5:22-33](#), [Eph. 6:1-9](#), [Col. 3:18-4:1](#), [1 Tim. 6:1-2](#), [1 Peter 3:1,7](#)] Authority is from God and is meant to a channel for His power and blessing to flow through. God is the author of authority and all authority belongs to Him. He gives it to whom He pleases. However, submission entirely belongs to us! Submission is the receptacle for the power and blessing that flows through authority. If someone refuses to submit to authority they have risen up in pride and there is no longer a receptacle for the power and blessing to flow. Once someone submits there is a demand put on the flow of power and blessing. Many see submission as a place of weakness and shame. However, the place of submission is actually a place of power and

influence. Submission controls the flow of God that comes through authority. The more submission the more a demand is put on the flow of God to come to you. There will be increased pressure put on the channels of authority for God's blessing and power to flow to you as you submit. This will cause authorities to change or even removed if they are not in line with God! However, if there is no submission there is no pressure put on authority to change and things will stay the same unchanged. So, the role of submission is addressed first because it is the catalyst for change!

3. **governing authorities-** Gr. **huperecho exousia-** *one holding higher authority*

- a. This is speaking of natural earthly authorities. Some will say they submit to only God but they are rebellious to natural authorities. These people are deluded and are in rebellion to God.

B. For there is no authority except from God

1. Again, God has all authority. He gave to Adam delegated authority. Adam gave over his authority to Satan. Satan had authority over the earth. We know this because he promised this authority to Jesus if He would bow to him. [Luke 4:5-7] Jesus did not refute or argue with Satan about that point. Jesus was tempted in all points but did not sin. He took on all the sin of Adam and those that come from him. Jesus died and rose again triumphant over the devil. When Jesus rose again He said, "All authority in heaven and earth is mine". [Matt. 28:18- KJV- power- Gr. exousia- authority] Jesus has all authority back. When Jesus ascended up into heaven he delegated us His authority. He said as the Father has sent me, I now send you. [John 20:21] We've been given the right to use the name of Jesus and to exercise authority for Him in the earth. This delegated authority is spiritual authority.
2. God has also delegated some of His authority to natural leaders in the earth- governments and agents of government.

C. and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

1. **appointed-** Gr. **tasso-** *arranged in orderly fashion and rank*
2. **by God-** Gr. **hupo theos-** *under God*

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

A. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God

1. **resists-** Gr. **antitassomai-** *to set in array against; to oppose established rank and file*
2. **ordinance-** Gr. **diatage-** *arrangement, that is, institution*
 - a. The institutions of God are under attack today and are being eroded-

marriage, the church, family. They are being challenged by those who are heady and high minded. They have rebellion towards God that shows in their refusing to submit to his arrangements and institutions. May it not be said that those in the church of Jesus Christ are doing the same!

B. and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

1. **resist-** Gr. **anthistemi-** *to stand against- we get our word antihistamine from this word.*
2. **bring-** Gr. **lambano-** *receive*
3. **judgment-** Gr. **krino-** *a legal decision against*
 - a. This is not talking about a direct judgment from God. This is speaking of government making a legal decision against you for violating law.
4. **on themselves-** This is something you do to yourself if you choose to violate law.

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.

A. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil

1. **rulers-** Gr. **archon-** *those in chief rank*
2. **terror-** Gr. **phobos-** *cringing fear*
3. **good works-** Gr. **agathos ergon-** *intrinsically good works*
 - a. This would be produced in a Christian from the Spirit/spirit.
4. **but to evil-** Gr. **kakos-** *intrinsically bad morally*
 - a. This would be produced from the flesh in both unbelievers and believers.

B. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority?

1. The natural world is influenced by fear.

C. Do what is good, and you will have praise of the same.

1. The natural world which comprise our horizontal relationships with people is run by the principles of sowing and reaping, not grace and faith, which governs a Christian's vertical relationship with God. In this world if you do good you will get good. If you do bad you will get bad. We need to train ourselves and our children that when we relate to God we do not operate towards him in sowing and reaping. This will produce dead religion. Jesus did the sowing and we do the reaping spiritually. However, in the world we must sow to reap. We need to teach our children to do good in the earth to reap good. However, we need to teach them that in our relationship with God we must place our faith in His grace and freely receive all good from Him because of what Jesus as done. Many who hear grace think that grace and faith governs both the spiritual and natural realms. They think that all natural good

things will automatically come to them because they believe in God's grace. This is not true. God has given us grace to sow good seed in the natural and get a good harvest! [2 Cor. 9:10]- God gives seed [grace] to the sower [our responsibility is to sow!]

2. **praise**- Gr. **epainos**- *laudation*

a. I believe that natural authorities should do a better job of this. Often the authorities only give attention to evil doers and no attention to good doers. Here we see they should be giving commendation and laudation for those doing good. The local news should contain bad things happening and also the good that is happening, however, the news only focuses on the bad. This is the nature of the flesh guys!

4. **For he is God's minister to you for good. 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.**

A. **For he is God's minister to you for good.**

1. **minister**- Gr. **diakonos**- *deacon, servant, minister*

a. Those in government positions are deacons of God. This is just as valid a ministry as being a deacon in a church. It is important to submit to government authorities because they are God's deacons, but it is equally important for government officials to realize this and act in line with God's Word and will, for they will give account for their ministry.

2. **good**- Gr. **agathos**- *divine good*

B. **But if you do evil, be afraid**- Gr. **evil**- *kakos*; **afraid**- *phobos*

C. **for he does not bear the sword in vain**

1. **bear**- Gr. **phoreo**- *to carry*

2. **sword**- Gr. **machaira**- *the Roman sword used by soldiers*

a. In the day of Paul Rome ruled most of the world. If you were not a Roman citizen you were executed by crucifixion. If you were a Roman citizen you would be executed by being beheaded by the Roman sword called the machaira.

b. Capital punishment is clearly taught in the scriptures- before the Law [Gen. 9:6], during the Law [many passages], and here after the Law [Rom. 13:4].

3. **vain**- Gr. **eike**- *idly, for no purpose, without cause*

a. The soldiers carried the sword for a purpose and a cause- to execute those who did evil. They are called the deacons of God.

D. **for he is God's minister**

1. **minister**- Gr. **diakonos**- *deacon*

E. an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil

1. avenger- Gr. **exdikos-** *to give out justice and judgment*

- a. In the last chapter we learned we are not to avenge ourselves. We are to be kind and good to people who are against us which will often cause repentance.
- b. If avenging needs to take place it takes place in this age of grace through government authorities.

2. execute wrath- Gr. **orge-** *deep seated anger*

- a. Many think that God does not get angry any more. This is not true. God still hates injustice and wickedness. He loves those who commit these however. God has anger towards injustice in the earth. He has established governing authorities to seek out and punish injustice. These authorities execute wrath upon these injustices. God does not personally pour wrath out in this age of grace. If any wrath is shown to wickedness it will be shown through governing authorities. Once the church age is over then God's wrath will be directly poured out upon the world during the Tribulation.

3. practices evil- Gr. **prasso-** *to practice habitually*; **evil-** **kakos**

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

A. subject- Gr. **hupotasso**

B. wrath- Gr. **orge**

C. conscience- Gr. **suneidesis-** *to intuitively know jointly*

1. The conscience of man is a product of eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Paul earlier called our conscience the work of the law written in our hearts. [Rom. 2:15] Even the most remotest tribes in Africa or South America know murder, lying, stealing, and adultery are wrong. These sins go against the conscience- the work of the law in the heart.
2. Man knows in their conscience that they are to obey authorities. We should not only live out of fear of being caught but also from the knowledge of right and wrong in our heart. Christians can fulfill the good in their hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit. Unbelievers cannot help but to live in the flesh.

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

A. For because of this you also pay taxes

1. you pay- Gr. **teleo-** *discharge a debt, make an end, conclude*

- a. This Greek word shows us that just partially paying your taxes is not

paying our taxes!

b. When Paul says "you also pay taxes", he is assuming all are working and all are paying taxes!

2. **taxes-** Gr. **phoros-** *burden, load*

a. Every person in society should be bearing their own load to contribute to the common good of their city, state, and country. One of the main ways we do this is that each should pay taxes on their earned wages.

b. Unfortunately, here in the US only half of the people pay income taxes. There are millions that could work but they choose to allow the government to supply for them. The government does not generate wealth. It comes from the contributions of the members of society. So the millions that are living off the government are really living off of other hard working members of society. So there are some bearing a much heavier load than they need to be or should be because of others who choose not to bear their own personal load of responsibility.

B. **for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing.**

1. **God's ministers-** Here is an astounding truth- IRS agents are God's deacons! We need to look at them that way, and oh yes, they need to see themselves that way. If they did there wouldn't be corruption and extortion.

2. **attending continually-** Gr. **proskatereo-** *to exercise ruling power towards*

a. It is very interesting that this same Greek word is used by Paul in exhorting us to use our authority in prayer. [[Acts 6:4](#), [Rom. 12:12](#), [Col. 4:2](#)]

b. The IRS agents have authority and use it continually! We should do the same as Christians!

7. **Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes *are due*, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.**

A. **Render therefor to all their due:**

1. **Render-** Gr. **apodidomi-** *give back*

2. **all-** Gr. **pas-** Again partial payment of taxes is not paying your taxes in God's eyes.

3. **due-** Gr. **opheile-** *indebtedness, that is, (concretely) a sum owed; figuratively obligation*

B. **taxes to who taxes are due**

1. **taxes-** Gr. **phoros-** *burden, load*

2. Jesus said that we should give unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's. [[Luke 20:25](#)] Taxes belong to the government, and worship, faith, and obedience belongs to God. Part of obedience to God is to submit to the

governing authorities that He ordained.

C. customs to whom customs

1. **customs**- Gr. **telos**- *toll, custom (i.e. indirect tax on goods)*

D. fear to whom fear

1. **fear**- Gr. **phobos**

a. police and military

E. honor to whom honor

1. **honor**- Gr. **time**- *respect, weight*

a. Government leaders, spiritual leaders

b. It is a shame for Christians to mock our president even though he seems wicked and ignorant of God and His ways. We are to honor His position and not speak evil of Him. We should bless him and pray for him.

8. Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

A. Owe no one anything except to love one another

1. **owe**- Gr. **opheilo**- *accruing; to owe (pecuniary); figuratively to be under obligation (ought, must, should)*

a. Christians ought not be accruing unpaid debt. If you have financial obligations and are paying on them it is one thing, but we should not be accruing unpaid debt.

2. **love**- Gr. **agape**- God's love

a. We have an ever accruing debt of love to pay people around us.

B. for he who loves another has fulfilled the law

1. **fulfilled**- Gr. **pleroo**- *to fill to the full*

a. Jesus fulfilled the law by loving God and us to the full. We see this in the cross.

b. The divine requirement of the law is fulfilled **in us**, when we walk according to the Spirit/spirit. [Rom. 8:4] We don't really fulfill the law by our own effort. It is fulfilled **IN** us when we draw upon the love of God that was shed abroad in our heart to love others. [Rom. 5:5]

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."

A. For the commandments,

1. **You shall not commit adultery**- 7th commandment

2. **You shall not murder**- 6th commandment

3. **You shall not steal**- 8th commandment
4. **You shall not bear false witness**- 9th commandment
5. **You shall not covet**- 10th commandment

a. The commandments are from the last half of the Ten Commandments and concern man's relationship with man.

B. and if there any other commandment

1. **other**- Gr. **heteros**- any other commandment concerning your relationship with your fellow man.
2. The first half of the Ten Commandments are concerning man's relationship to God. Here we see the second half of the commandments which detail man's relationship to man.

C. are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"

1. **summed up**- Gr. **anakephalaionmai**- *to bring under the head of again, under the main point*
2. **love**- Gr. **agape**- *the God kind of love that was impossible for unregenerate people to produce.*

a. The Law was spiritual but given to nonspiritual people that did not have the right kind of heart to keep it. [Rom. 7:14, Deut. 5:29] Israel did not know this because they thought they could keep the law and become righteous by it. [Deut. 6:25] God knew they did not have the heart to keep it.

b. Christians who are born again and have the nature of Christ can keep the Ten Commandments. We do that by the love of God that was poured out in our heart when we got saved. [Rom. 5:5] We are divinely wired to live out the God kind of life from our born again nature!

3. **neighbor**- Gr. **plesion**- *one who is near*

10. Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

A. Love does no harm to a neighbor

1. **harm**- Gr. **kakos**- *moral bad*
2. **neighbor**- Gr. **plesion**- *one who is near*

B. therefore love is the fulfillment of the law

1. **fulfillment**- Gr. **pleroma**- *fullness, completion*

a. Love is the fullness and completion of the law. Jesus is God and God is love. Jesus is the fullness and completion of the Law. When we were born again, Jesus by His Spirit, came to reside in us. Love came to reside in us. It is actually Jesus or love that fulfills the requirements of the law in us. We need to draw upon our spirit to walk in love. We do this by

faith in what the Word says about us in Christ. If we walk by our feelings we will fail to tap into our spirit.

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.**

A. **And do this, knowing the time**

1. **And do this-** kai touto- *and that*
2. **knowing-** Gr. eido- *seeing by perception*
3. **the time-** Gr. kairos- *season*

B. **that now it is high time to awake out of sleep**

1. **now-** Gr. nun- *this very second*. Whenever this is read it is now so this never changes! It is time to wake up!
2. **high time-** Gr. hora- *hour*
3. **awake-** Gr. hemas egeiro- *to rouse, wake ourselves*
4. **sleep-** Gr. hupnos- *deep sleep*. We get the word hypnosis from this word. The world can hypnotize a Christian if they are not looking at the right things. As someone can be hypnotized by staring at a shiny gold watch, so it is true with us. If we stare at the things of the world we will become hypnotized and act contrary to who we are in Christ. If we gaze at Christ through His Word and in prayer we will stay alert and live out the Christ kind of life in the world.

C. **for now our salvation is nearer than we first believed**

1. **now-** Gr. nun- *this very second*. Whenever this is read it is now. This never changes! It is time for God's salvation [healing, prosperity, deliverance, wholeness] in your life!
2. **salvation-** Gr. soteria- *healing, prosperity, deliverance, wholeness*
3. **nearer-** Gr. egguterion- *to come nearer*; from eggus- *to squeeze*- as you squeeze something like toothpaste it will come faster. Time seems to be speeding up in these last days. We are being sped along to the summation of this age!
4. **than we first believed-** Gr. pisteuo- *trusted*
 - a. This is so true. The coming of Jesus is nearer today than the day you got saved. Each day is a day closer to the return of Jesus!

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.**

A. **The night is far spent**

1. **night-** Gr. nux
 - a. This is a metaphor for the present age. Jesus, the Sun, appeared and set. The world rejected the light. Now the church is the light of this age. We

are like the moon that reflects the light of the Sun Jesus. One day Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness will appear with healing in His wings! [Mal. 4:2]

2. **far spent**- Gr. **prokopto**- *to cut forward; advancing*

a. Paul lived almost 2000 years ago and said this! How close are we to see the Daystar spring forth! Jesus is coming!

3. **day**- Gr. **hemera**- this is a metaphor for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom being set up.

B. **Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness**

1. **cast off**- Gr. **apotithemi**- *to put off like clothing*

a. This is a clothing term. Clothing identifies us and is worn on the outside for people to see. This metaphor means to put off outward actions that were part of your old identification in Adam. We have new clothing to put on that belongs to the new creation. [Eph. 4:24] Our outward actions should reflect our new identity in Christ now!

2. **works of darkness**- Gr. **ergon skotos**

a. These are the works of the flesh- [Gal. 5:19-21]

C. **and let us put on the armor of light.**

1. **put on**- Gr. **enduo**- *to be endued with*. Again a clothing term. We need to put on actions that come from our true identity in Christ.

2. **armor of light**- Gr. **hapon phos**

a. When we live out from our identity in Christ it is like shining light into the darkness. We are protected from stumbling and our enemies are warded off.

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

A. **Let us walk properly, as in the day**

1. **walk**- Gr. **peripateo**- *to walk around; our lifestyle*

2. **properly**- Gr. **euschemonos**- *what is well formed, becomingly, decorous*

a. Our walk before the world is not for God's acceptance but for people's acceptance so they will listen to our message. We have a holy message that needs to be decorated with a holy lifestyle by those who preach it! Good works are profitable for men! [Titus 3:8]

3. **day**- Gr. **hemera**- the metaphor that speaks of the manifestation of God's kingdom on earth.

a. This earth is wrapped in darkness being in the night. We Christians as children of the light and of the day are to shine our light into that darkness. We can bring the day to the night! Our lifestyle will either

shine for others to see God, or be darkness and make no difference to those groping in the night.

B. not in revelry and drunkenness

1. **revelry**- Gr. **komos**- *carousal, letting loose*

a. As Christians we can't afford to let our flesh loose! Wild parties is no place for a believer.

2. **drunkenness**- Gr. **methe**- *intoxication*

a. Drunkenness has no part in a believer's life. You can't get drunk if you don't take the first drink.

b. We are to be intoxicated with the Holy Spirit! [Eph. 5:18]

C. not in lewdness and lust

1. **lewdness**- Gr. **koite**- *a place for laying down, resting, sleeping in; sexual intercourse; adultery*

a. This is sleeping around outside of marriage

2. **lust**- Gr. **aselgeia**- *unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence*

a. These are manifestations of the flesh. Jesus died on the cross and bore these sins. He rose from the dead victorious over them. By the resurrection of Jesus and our identification with it, we need to claim our victory over these as well. When we do this the Holy Spirit will enforce that victory in our life by His power. We do not overcome these sins by will power, but by Spirit power!

D. not in strife and envy

1. **strife**- Gr. **eris**- *contention and quarrel*

2. **envy**- Gr. **zelos**- *heat, jealousy*

a. These are fleshly and soulish.

b. Grace thinking will protect us from strife and envy. We all are who we are by the grace of God. [1 Cor. 15:10] The cross removes all boasting and jealousy.

14. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

A. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ

1. **put on**- Gr. **enduo**- *to be endued with*

a. Again this is a clothing term. As clothing identifies a man and is worn on the outside for others to see, we are to put on our identification with the risen Christ. We have His nature and character in our spirit. [Eph. 4:24]When we renew our mind to this we can put on that character and

nature of Jesus in our daily life for others to see. [Rom. 12:2]

2. **The Lord Jesus Christ**- We are called to incarnate Jesus for people in the earth! Incarnate means to put into flesh. We can put Jesus back into a human body for people to see by letting Him live in and through us!

B. and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

1. **provision**- Gr. **pronoia**- *to think of in advance*

- a. The best way we can avoid walking in sin is to set our mind on the Word of God. This is being spiritually minded. [Rom. 8:6] When we think about doing things of the flesh, we will kick in negative emotions, which will put pressure on our will to sin.
- b. Jesus wore a crown of thorns. [Matt. 27:29] Thorns speak of the curse. [Gen. 3:17-18] He wore it on his head. He wore this crown and shed blood from his head to redeem us from cursed thinking! Now Jesus is wearing the High Priest miter that says holiness to the Lord! [Ex. 28:35-36; Rev. 1:13- the dress of the High Priest] As Jesus is, so are we in this present world! [1 John 4:17] Claim you have been redeemed from cursed and sinful thinking and have the mind of Christ. You have holy thinking! Jesus has set you free by the cross and resurrection!

C. fulfill its lusts

1. **lusts**- Gr. **epithumia**- *intense cravings*- this is can be sexual but not limited to it. It can be any kind of intense cravings.
 - a. Lusts are ready to flame up as soon as you strike the mental match by thinking on the flesh!
 - b. Keep the fire of the Spirit burning bright by thinking on the Lord through the Word of God.