

**I. Submit - Romans 13:1-7**

1. Governmental authorities (**verse 1**)
  - Be “subject”
  - A. Similar exhortations to Titus at 3:1
  - B. Peter did the same thing - 1 Peter 2:12
  - C. Jesus said - give back to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s - Mark 12:17
2. “Be subject” means... Place under or be subordinate
  - Two reasons given:
  - First - all authorities are under God’s authority
  - Second - these authorities are placed where they are by God
    - compare the teaching at John 19:11
3. So... if you rebel you are rebelling against God (**verse 2**)
  - A. That leads to God’s judgement
  - Rea B. This passage needs to be taken along with the other “government” passages in the Bible
4. God has given these authorities the task of “governing” (**verse 3**)
  - so if you’ve done nothing wrong you need not fear
  - Rea -generally speaking these ideas are correct - just as many of our Old Testament principles/ proverbs are correct generally speaking - as a rule.
  - Rea A principle of wives submit carries the same caveat
5. They are God’s servants (**verse 4**)
  - A. They exist for the citizens
  - B. They bring judgment (as needed)
- Rea 6. Bearing the “sword” included the death penalty
7. Two reasons to “submit” (**verse 5**)
  - A. They will “punish”
  - B. As a matter of “conscience” - our moral sensitivity to the will of God
8. Pay taxes - they are God’s servants (**verse 6**)
  - give them revenue, honor and respect (**verse 7**)
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. If they are “God’s servants” - that means God is over them - He will repay
  2. “Honor” those who are “dishonorable?”
    - honor the office, not necessarily the person
  3. Discuss authorities - these principles are throughout the Bible, so if you have a problem
    - anywhere, you have a problem everywhere
    - submitting is recommended to government authorities, wives to husbands, church members to leadership, children to parents, and workers to their employers
  4. From an emotional level it is sometimes “irksome” to submit - why is that?
  5. Two wrong paths:
    - First**, to so identify with government that we do not ever question what they do -
    - I don’t think this is what Paul had in mind

**Second**, to so question government that we find a “reason” to disobey and question every move of the powers that be

## **II. Love - Romans 13:8-10**

1. Pay all your obligations - especially the debt of love (**verse 8**)  
Rea            -you never get that one “paid” off  
                  A. The reason - you have fulfilled the law if you love others  
                  B. Further reasoning is found in **verse 9**  
                              -these laws are summed up in the admonition to love one another  
                  C. Even further reasons - in **verse 10**  
                              -love does no wrong to a neighbor  
Rea            -if a person wanted to get around this he might say well “who is my neighbor?”
- Rea    **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. He plainly means the laws of the ten commands - if you love, you will keep the ten commands
  2. Loving others was central in Paul’s admonitions - discuss
  3. “Loving others” is different depending on how you define it - discuss how we can turn this idea into doing nothing
  4. Placed here do you think Paul meant they were to love the governmental officials?

## **III. Anticipate - Romans 13:11-14**

1. Understand the times in which you live (**verse 11**)  
                  A. The “hour”  
Rea            -era, age, the “times”
2. Don’t be sleepy - or slumbering - your salvation is closer than it was
3. The night is spent (**verse 12**)  
                  -“day” is almost here  
Rea            -I believe that Paul was referencing the coming of Jesus with His judgment
4. Live conscience that you’re running out of time  
Rea            - “deeds of darkness” are obviously the opposite of the “armor of light” - a contrast
- Rea            -note the words “let us” - there is something for you to do... put them off, put them on
5. Behave decently (**verse 13**) - lifestyle ought be “decent”  
                  -as in the daytime - analogy of “light” living
6. By contrast with “decent” living:
  - A. Not in carousing and drunkenness  
Rea            -partying... like “Spring Break” and “Mardi Gras” - which seem to have the Christian “stamp of approval” nowadays
  - B. Not in sexual immorality and debauchery
  - C. Not in dissension and jealousy  
Rea            -today’s churches are often known for their fighting and dissensions
7. Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ (**verse 14**)

Rea            -the analogy is great... like a garment we wear the character of Christ. Old Testament images of the Holy Spirit sometimes pictured Him as “clothing” the spokesman of the Lord  
                 -by contrast the “desires of the flesh” are what was enumerated in verse 13.

Rea    **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Good clean, moral living in light of the end of days
2. Live in light, and do not live in darkness
3. The day is dawning for the coming of Christ
4. Our times are also “dark” - we ought be lights in this present darkness  
      -we ought be known for our light, not our darkness

Charles Ray - SS Lesson for May 17, 2020