

Romans 12-13 – part two

“Surrender & Submit”

7/25/12

Introduction

- The Content of Romans is not hard to understand
 - As long as you remember it is helpful to compare the content of Romans to a great theological city

The Book of Romans – The Great Theological City

#1 – The Courthouse – Romans 1-5

- Paul introduces the concept of righteousness by faith, but in order to show us our great need of salvation he spend the first five chapters showing are we are all guilty before God

#2 – The Power Plant – Romans 6-8

- Chapters 6-8 help us understand that is power to live out this Christian life God is calling us to – Pastor Rob is doing an in-depth series from these three chapters on our weekend services, but we will cover them as well, just at a much more rapid pace

#3 – The Synagogue – Romans 9-11

- in chapters 9-11 Paul shares with us how Israel fits into God plan now that there is this new thing called the church and answers the questions, has the church replaced Israel, where do they fit into God’s plan and how does God’s sovereignty fit with man’s free will – great stuff in this section

#4 – The Church – Romans 12-16

- in Paul’s final section of this book we will study how the church is practically suppose to operate in light of the all the amazing truths about God is this book – Paul ends all of his letters very practically Romans is no exception

Now tonight we continue in the fourth and final section of the book of Romans

- as Paul begins to exhort the church to live in light of what they have learned he encourages them to

Romans 12-13 – How do we then live?

#1 – Sacrifice – Romans 12:1-2

- The basis of sacrifice – everything He has done for us
- The sacrifice itself – die to self
- The characteristics of sacrifice – don’t be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind
- The results of sacrifice – you will prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God

#2 – Serve – Romans 12:3-8

- Then Paul says we are not just to sacrifice, but we also are to serve
 - Paul runs through many gifts, gifts I believe personally are primary gifts meaning every one of you possesses at least one of these gifts
 - And we look at those in detail last week, you can check out that study online or get a CD, DVD or podcast from iTunes
 - Anyway – Paul continues his list of ways we are to respond to everything we have learned by saying we need to...

Romans 12-13 – How do we then live?

#1 – Sacrifice – Romans 12:1-2

#2 – Serve – Romans 12:3-8

#3 – Surrender – Romans 12:9-21

- Everyone one of us has a way we like to do things, our natural man
 - And if we are going to respond to the Lord and what we have learned, then our way of acting, our way of responding, our way of loving one another needs to be surrendered to the Lord

We are different people (the church) and because of that we need to be different – and this works out as we surrender the way we want to be, loving primary ourselves and instead love one another – that is what Paul is saying

First He gives a description of what our love is to be like – verse 9

- Paul exhorts us to “love without hypocrisy”
 - This love that God wants to fill this group and everyone of our lives with – it is not fake
 - It’s not saying, “I’m Love you!”, and but I really want to kill you – under your breath

The word Paul actually uses here for love is “agape” – which is a love not based on what others have done, but simply comes from the Lord through your heart

- It is not to get some thing from someone else, or because someone has done something for you

Girls at Bible College when I went were hard to read. Some of them just wanted to marry a guy in that was going to be in the ministry. I really saw it, when the majority of them wouldn’t give me the time of day, except to ask what Jeremy Camp looked like when was sleeping. They wouldn’t talk to me, until I taught in front of the college and then I kid you not, there were girls telling me they had a vision of us walking down the isle together. It was sick; I’m not a piece of meat, ministry meat. I felt violated

- I felt that way because their feelings weren’t genuine, they just wanted to marry a pastor
 - It was love with hypocrisy

We are not to be that way – we are not to be pretend in our love, but genuine

- And there is nothing wrong with being honest with God about how you are and how you want to be
 - Lord I have real trouble with this person, I want to see them through your eyes – remember as we talked about before – it’s through prayer!

We are to love – and that love is to be genuine, from God flowing through our lives – and it begins with our brothers and sisters in the church

- Loving each other, honoring others above you
 - This is what I am trying to work with my son on – He needs to be first – first to pray, first to eat, first to set the agenda of the day and I encourage him – Jonathan prefer others
 - But the reality is, it is not just my 8 year old son that needs to grow in this – we do too

Admit it – you go to the market and have a few things, and see that old lady with the overflowing cart heading to the only open check stand. – You know you start to walk faster - you want to beat the old lady

- and I’m not saying that’s not a good idea – I’ve been behind some slow people in line.
 - But I mention that so we see how each of us is programmed – its about us, its always about us
 - and as we just said, one way is to pray for people, to get the Lord’s heart for people

But another thing I think that is so important to keep in mind is to realize what Paul says in verse 11 – serving the Lord

- you see the problem with people is they are sinners just like you and so to serve them, to love them, well they don't deserve it
 - and we have to convert our thinking to what Paul says here – you are serving the Lord
- I think this is so important for married couples to understand
 - The Bible tells us husband to love our wives like Christ loves the church
 - Wives, the command for you is to respect your husbands
- But you all already know the problem

Oh that sounds easy in premarital counseling doesn't it?

- when everyone on their best behavior
 - of course I will always love her – she is so loveable
 - of course I will always respect him – he is so respectable
- But then real life hits and couples fall apart
 - Well she doesn't respect me
 - Well he doesn't love me

Wait when were the rules based on the others obedience, it is unto the Lord we do these things

- in others – I don't love my wife, simply because she is loveable and is loving toward me or even deserves it
 - I love my wife, because I made a vow to the Lord and He deserves my obedience
 - Christy respects me and follows my leadership in the home, not because I always deserve it or have earned it – but because Jesus deserves her obedience
- You see Paul says, serving the Lord – I surrender how I want to be and how I want to live, not because the people I serve are worthy
 - But because my Jesus is

And when we begin to get this – oh loving people isn't natural for me, preferring others isn't natural for me – I am just a naturally selfish person and so the Lord understands

- no – we are all naturally selfish people
 - just watch a baby = whaa, feed me, whaa, change me, whaaa, give me attention
 - some of us never grow out of that
- But if I learn to pray for people, to get God's heart
 - If I learn its serving God, not people
 - Well then I can love without hypocrisy

Trouble is, I am not just to love people in the church, my brothers and sisters in Christ – that is difficult enough, but Paul goes on to say in verses 14-21 that I am suppose to love my enemies

- now this is a tuff call
 - because the language of what Paul is saying doesn't give you anyway out.
- Again, someone comes against me, what I want to do is come against them
 - Oh no you didn't you say that about me
 - I will show you
 - And again – there is this natural side of me that God is calling to be surrendered to Him and how He wants me to behave
- And again, the language here is tuff because...

What Paul is saying is not just don't curse those who curse you, that would be tough enough

- No it goes much further – it says to bless those people in your life –
 - Oh man – why, forget how, I am going to need more than prayer and remembering I am serving the Lord for this one

- Forget even how, why – why would God want this
- Paul shares some good reasons for this....

Why love my enemies?

#1. The world is watching

- Paul says in verse 17, “have regard for the good things in the sight of men,”
 - What does it look like to the world when all we do as a church is fight each other
- Back in Paris Texas one church in town that used to partner with us to reach kids in more run down areas, just totally yanked all their funding for it because of a minor theological difference

That would be one thing, but then they have told the kids why they are taking away their ministry

- we will no longer do sidewalk Sunday school in your area because Calvary Chapel Paris believes you can loose your salvation
 - now – just think through for a second
- forget the fact that CC Paris doesn't believe that or teach that, one pastor said that in a message he was teaching
 - I have always taught as I did here a few weeks ago, I think it is the dumbest debate in the church
- Those that believe you can loose your salvation, look at the guy in open sin and say – you are not saved, it doesn't matter what prayer you prayed, you don't appear to be saved get right with God
- Those who don't believe you loose your salvation look at the guy in open sin and say, you are not saved, you were never really saved, you need to get right with God
 - They both respond the same way!!!

So because of that issue, now we can't reach kids they we both agree are not saved because one pastor differs on what he believes could happen to them once they are saved and they were told that

- how does that make the body of Jesus Christ look to people who are not saved
 - dumb – that is the answer
 - dumb and divided over stuff that shouldn't matter
- I obviously have my own theological opinions, we should know what we believe and why – but if we ever let inconsequential get between us, people and the gospel they so desperately need – watch out, you are on the wrong side of God

The world is watching

- And when you live radically different, people take note and lives are changed
 - Number one (The world is watching), #2...

Why love my enemies?

#1. The world is watching

#2. God is watching

- Sometimes we behave like God has lost control of his world
 - Like He is unable to set things right
 - That if I don't step in, and often embarrass myself, things will never be right

What a low view of Sovereign God

- First of all you will never makes thing right
 - He made things right when he died for that sin that was committed against you
 - Are you telling me that wasn't enough, that somehow your response is still needed to “make things right”
 - He made things right
- And secondly if something else needs to be done, what does Paul tells us the heart of God is

- Vengeance is mine says, the Lord, I will repay

I think David is such a great picture of this

- David did some squirrely things in his life, but there is much to be learned and admired in David
 - He is anointed as King, God has rejected Saul, those are the facts
 - But present situation – Saul is King and not just King but chasing David around the wilderness
- And David not once, but twice has the life of Saul in his hands
 - His men are encouraging, run the guy through, but David refuses

He basically says the Lord knows what He is doing, He will do things in His time, I will not touch the Lord's anointed

- And did that surrendered life, result in David missing what God had for him
 - Was God late?
 - Were God's plans destroyed?
 - No way

But the way we so often live, its almost like, we think in our lives God's plan will – God's will is dependant on me taking things into my own hands, burning a few bridges

- No church – surrender that
 - Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with – your own vengeance???? – overcome evil with taking things into your own hands???
 - Overcome evil with good
 - As much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men
- You see – you can't control how your boss is going to act, how your husband or wife or kids will respond
 - But you can control you
 - So you surrender your natural response to things to the Lord
 - For no other reason, that He is worthy
 - Remember how this chapter started – because of everything He has done for you!
- That is why I sacrifice, that is why I serve, that is why I surrender
 - And fourthly, that is why I submit

Romans 12-13 – How do we then live?

#1 – Sacrifice – Romans 12:1-2

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#4 – Submit – Romans 13:1-14

We need to submit to authority God has put over us

- What I love about the apostle Paul's teaching is he doesn't just tell us what to do, and then say, "Because I said so."
 - But he explains to us – why this needs to be the command of God

Why should I submit to government authority?

#1 – God appointed the authority

- the Bible makes it clear that God raises up Kings and removes them as well – Daniel 2:20

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever. For wisdom and might are His. He changes the times and the seasons, He removes kings and raises up kings.” – Daniel 2:20

➤ God raises up Kings, governments and he expects us as believers to be subject to them
Well – you mean, you can't mean, our government – it's so corrupt in the things that it does -- are you serious

- Hey – who was in charge of Rome when Paul was writing this?
 - Caesar Nero – Demon possessed, evil
 - Our leaders, no matter what you think are not as bad as he was
- We are called to be subject to them
 - And that works out practically by paying your taxes

I met a minister once who felt like he was no longer a citizen of the United States and so he hadn't paid taxes in 7 years – the government was after him – what is that kind of witness

- We are to honor the authorities God has put over us
 - Paying our taxes
 - Following the rules

God has appointed them for a reason

- and it may certainly be historical reasons, or as our text says..
 - reason number two....

Why should I submit to government authority?

#1 – God appointed the authority

#2 – God has given them authority over evil

- they are appointed for the reason of protecting you from evil
 - now I know some governments do this better than others – but that is there purpose

And Paul states if you're obeying the laws, practicing good things, you should have nothing to fear

- I used to live in Long Beach – home of Snoop Dog, Warren G, and Jason D. There were parts that were ghetto. Police cars would patrol the neighbor hoods. And I was glad they were they - Some people didn't like them around, but I could care less if they parked in my driveway – there was not a crack deal going down at my house. I have nothing to hide

However there have been times when I have been slightly speeding – like the time I was doing 75 in a 35

- and when you are slightly speeding (75 in a 35) and I saw a cop behind me – now I was afraid of the police
 - Isn't that the worse feeling – Knowing you are going fast and then seeing a cop parked on the side of the road
 - You blood runs cold – you start to sweat
 - And I should be afraid – I was breaking the law

And that is Paul's point

- we are to be subject to authority
 - and that should be no big deal when you are doing good
 - But when you are evil – watch out

The government is God's instrument to punish those who are evil

- see it again in verse 4
 - God has given the government the authority to be His instrument to punish evil
- That is what people need to understand when it comes to America fighting terrorism
 - People will call up radio and say “the ten commandments says do not murder”
 - “Jesus says to forgive your enemy”

They are right it does say that

- you are not to kill people – everyone understand
 - you are to forgive, and not harbor bitterness

But our government is supposed to God's instrument of judgment

- and those who serve in the military as part of the government have a divine right from God to take life and bring judgment in those situations
 - God has given them those rights
 - That was the reason He set them up

So because God has put them into power

- He has given them authority over us
 - He has given them authority over evil
 - We need to be submitted to their authority
 - I know I am not winning any right wing tonight, that is what the Word says

Now are their exceptions? – yes!

- Well Jesus gave us a great balance in Matthew 22 when the Pharisees were trying to catch him by asking him – should we pay taxes to Caesar
 - Oh they thought they had Him
 - If He says – no – then we will tell the Romans we have got an insurrectionist on our hands and they will arrest him

If He says – Yes – well then He will loose his Jewish following who can't stand the Roman Empire – we have got Him

- But Jesus gives the classic line...

“Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” – Matthew 22:21

- Jesus there is giving a balance – there are some things God has given government authority over and ultimately it is for your good and protection
 - They make laws
 - They tax and theoretically use that tax to hire police, firemen, teachers, build roads – “You didn't build that”... sorry, I couldn't resist
- But the government has authority from God and we are to submit to that authority

Because God has appointed them and has appointed them for a reason

- But that doesn't mean they have cart blanche
 - It doesn't mean if you lived in Germany in the 30's and early 40's you had to exterminate Jews because the government wanted you to
 - The things that are Casers, the things under government control, you need to submit
- But the things under God's control, well, then you better obey God rather than man

Now sometimes a corrupt government will ask you to do something that is contrary to God's word

- the Roman government wanted you to say, “Caesar is Lord”
 - The Jewish government wanted the apostles to stop sharing the gospel.
 - And at times like that you are free from their authority – It is better to obey God than man., Acts 5:28 is a reference for that

But that is only when they contradict the word of God, even I would say your conscience, when your conscience is informed by the Word of God

- at all other times, God's word to us as believers is that we need to submit ourselves to them
 - This is a call to every one – “every soul”
 - This is a call that is necessary

We need to be in submission – to those in authority, starting with our government, but friends as we wrap this study up tonight – Paul takes it further than that - But not only that look at verses 5-7

- We are to be submitted to our government
 - That means paying our taxes, and our sales tax
 - which is what the word customs means)

But not only are we to be submitted to the government

- we need to be in submission to all those God has placed over us
 - **Look at verse 7 again..**

“Render therefore to all their due: Taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor”

We are to honor God

- it really all comes down to that
 - whether we are speaking about governments, spouses, parents, teachers
 - all those God may have put over us, and we have such a hard time submitting to
- it really comes down to our relationship with the Lord

Do you believe He is in control?

Do you believe He has your best interest in mind?

Then will you trust Him

- and not react with anger, but submission letting God do the work in the people's hearts

These are some tuff things, but look at verses 11-14 again

- the night is far spent
 - the time is drawing to a close
 - So we need to be living in this reality

And a great way to practically work this out, is what Paul ends with

- Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh
 - Quite honestly we usually do the opposite – we put on the flesh all the time
 - And we make little provision for Jesus, - a little bible reading here or there
- Friends – if we are going to live these things out, you can't do it in the power of your flesh
 - You need to put on the Lord Jesus
 - You think about clothes – you put them on in the morning, not half way through the day, and they stay on all day, please, keeping your flesh from the world
- So put on Jesus in the morning – keep Him on all day, keeping your flesh from those around you
 - Maybe something on the Levite priest who would take the inward parts and mix it with bread and wave it before the Lord
 - God keep Jesus between me and the ministry, my family and friends
 - Put on the Lord Jesus, keep Him on
- Make no provision for the flesh
 - We leave the door open, we leave a little crack
 - No provision, No provision – because the time is near.