

Romans 13:1-14 Citizens and Saints

No matter where I travel in the world – there is one topic that seems to be on the minds of people all over the World – Government

A) What is happening in this world – Brexit in England/ Trump in the USA/ Putin in Russia - wicked regimes in the Middle East

B) Kim Jong-un in North Korea / Xi Jinping in China

C) People all over the world hearts and minds are filled with angst over the state of the governmental affairs of the world

1) Needless to say – there is a lot of uncertainty

D) Now I can say as someone who has traveled to over 30 different countries in the world – 7 countries in the past 10 months

1) America is still the best place to live and we have the best govt system in the world – at this present time

E) And we should be really thankful for that!

1) To those people who like to complain about our country and our govt – I say – You have no idea – try living somewhere else for a year or two.

But our Govt is in no way perfect and our country isn't either!

A) We are faced with many problems –

B) The question that we need answered is how are we as Christians supposed to live – in relationship to our Govt?

C) Paul addresses that question in the chapter before us tonight – Read V. 1-7

Paul's overall instruction for us concerning our relationship to the Govt is we are to live in Submission to it. Why?

A) #1 V.1 Governments are established by God ! He is the one who gives power

B) Jesus before Pilate:

10 Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?"

11 Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. John 10:10-11

*13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—¹⁶ as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. ¹⁷ Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king." 1 Peter 2:13-17*

Now this is often hard for us to understand – Governments are appointed by God ?

A) At the time of Paul's writing to the Romans – as well as Peter's writing – ROME WAS IN POWER

B) Godless regime that horribly persecuted followers of Jesus

1) Abortion. Sexual immorality, Homosexuality, wickedness and corruption were rampant in the Roman empire

C) Caesar was the Emperor – how are we supposed to honor a madman?

D) Why would God allow such a power to exist in his world?

Here is what we must understand: God is not attempting to govern the earth today!

A) In the garden God gave the title deed to man –

B) But when man sinned - forfeited the title deed to the earth over to Satan - god of this world

C) Now when Jesus went to the cross to redeem man - He was also redeeming the earth –
1) but He hasn't laid claim to it YET

D) Rev. 4 Crying no one found worthy open scroll - title deed /

1) The lion of the tribe of Judah - looked Lamb been slain

E) So the earth has been redeemed but Jesus hasn't laid claim to it as of yet –

But there is a day Coming – Jesus will return – in Power & glory

A) Prior to that Rapture and Tribulation = Judgment

B) But presently he is waiting, & He is withholding His judgment – NONE PERISH

C) So God has allowed men to control his planet –
1) Some directly other indirectly being influenced by Satan the god of this world - DESTRUCTION

Sometimes after an election people on both sides of the political spectrum will say we got what we deserved

A) There is truth to that statement –

B) Although our interests always hinge on economic issues and then social concerns

C) **God's heart is always Spiritual** – Learned earlier in Romans 1 part of God's judgment is to give men over to their own devices – ways - desires

When a person or nation resist him – God will give them over

A) Purpose is always to bring us to the end of ourselves – come back to God

B) Why I never freak out one way or another over elections – excited or depressed –

1) God puts our president in place – I am always trying to discern why

C) What is God seeking to do at this time – get our attention spiritually ?

In the Old Testament we are told that

A) God raised up **Pharaoh**, that wicked, hardhearted king, and set him on the throne of Egypt.

B) It was God who gave **Nebuchadnezzar** power as the mightiest monarch who ever reigned on earth.

1) CALLED NEB HIS SERVANT

C) ALSO -**Cyrus**, that cruel Chaldean Lord, was his servant, raised up and set upon the throne by God.

D) He puts people in power to accomplish his purpose

Why vote?

A) Privilege to vote – God pays attention to our hearts in that -but ultimately he is the one who puts Kings in power

B) So we are to submit because Governments are established by God

We are to live in Submission to our Governments because:

#2 Government has a purpose V.3-7

- 1st – National safety V.3-4
- 2nd – Financial stability V. 5-7

1st – National safety V.3-4

A) Paul says that the Governmental authorities are God's servants to keep the Peace & to enforce the Law

B) **If you do good you have nothing to worry about !**

1) But if you do evil - watch out – punish you

C) God knows man needs to have restrictions & guidelines

1) Without them absolute depravity

2nd – Financial stability V. 6-7

A) Occurred through the paying of taxes

B) God recognizes the need for structure and a sense of everyone – paying their share

C) The admitted hard thing is when our Govt officials use our tax money for the wrong things.

D) But understand that was the purpose

We are to live in Submission to our Governments because:

#3 V.5 For Conscience sake.- ⁵ Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

Here is the point – if we are submitting only because we don't want to get into trouble that is the wrong **MOTIVATION!**

A) Our Motivation should be to do that which honors and pleases the Lord

B) When we are law abiding citizens living with integrity – we live with a CLEAR CONSCIENCE

C)Which is great for us – our stability – Sanity
1)Mental institution – Forgive their conscience

D)Not just good for our sanity – but also honors God

E)When you cut corners – compromise – Ignoring the Holy Spirit conviction –

1)Conscience gets hardened –

Ever hear Christian doing something - How could they do that ?

A)Started by ignoring the Holy Spirit – Conscience was becoming hardened

B)Past feeling – no longer any conviction

C)So we are to Submit
#1 Govt established by God
#2 Govt has a purpose
#3 For Conscience sake

Are we supposed to submit in everything? – No!

A)Notice - V. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. –

B)That clearly implies a responsibility to operate under God's moral order.

C)So when the Government asks us to do something that goes against God's word we are not called to submit.

- Shadrach ,Meshach, Abendego didn't bow

D)Daniel didn't stop Praying

E)The apostles couldn't stop preaching – “We must obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:29

F)Calling Homosexuality a sin

So first of all we are not called to submit to things that go against God's word and God's way

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

B)This was the point that Jesus was making when asked if we should pay taxes

1)He responded – Coin – who's image? Caesar – ok give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – God... to God

C)See the Romans encouraged emperor worship –
1)Caesar was looked at as a god.

D)Jesus was saying – You have been made in God's image – he is the one to whom worship is due!

Christians got into a great deal of trouble in the Roman Empire

A)when people realized that they had an authority higher than the emperor,

B)by which they could judge both him and the civic authorities.

C)Christians have got into trouble in most eras for the same reason.

When the 17th-century Stuart kings of England and Scotland claimed the “**divine right of kings**,” the Protestant minister Samuel Rutherford wrote a treatise against the idea called *Lex, Rex*; that is, *Law is King*.

D)That is the biblical teaching: the king is not the law, but (God's law) is king!

So when the Govt assumes a role or position of authority that is not due them – Not required to submit

A)Or when they put forth a law that goes against the hire law of Scripture

B)Again we are not called to submit

How are we to live as Citizens of Heaven in our present Society ? Focus of V. 8-14

A)I think it is easy to interpret V.8-14 as a new idea – Paul is moving on to a new thought

B)I think that is the wrong approach – this is all connected.

C)Chapter 12:17-21 Instruction on loving our ENEMY

1)Very easy to interpret THEIR GOVT as their enemy

21 Don't be overcome with evil but overcome evil with good

D)Then he moves into talking about our attitude toward the Govt 13:1-7

13:1-7 is sandwiched between this instruction on loving our enemy –

A)V.8-10 on loving our neighbor – THERE IS A CONNECTION

⁸ Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. 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.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love *is* the fulfillment of the law.

How are we to live as Citizens of Heaven in our present Society ?

A)The debt of love!

B)PAUL IS INSIGHTFUL HERE – all the commands that deal with our relationship to others – (See above)

1)Are summed up in this one command “You shall love your neighbor as yourself

C)When your heart is set on loving others – you are not going to seek to HARM them but to bless them

D)Love is to be our calling card in society!

We owe that to the World – because we were recipients of great love!

A)Jesus loved us – Rebellious – enemies

B)Loving but not affirming of sin

1)Ate with sinners – wasn’t affirming their sin

C)Sick need a doctor – We have to get close to people

1)Love them into the kingdom- Water at gay pride parade

Be in the world but not of the world

A)The Example of the Jewish exiles in Babylon

B)Jeremiah 27:7 – Judgment is coming if repentance doesn’t happen.

C)They are not to compromise with pagan values, but they are to be gloriously positive toward the city.

- He tells them to build homes and settle down (29:5),
- to invest in the community; to marry and have sons and daughters (v 6a)
- and to increase in number, not decrease (v 6b),
- to keep their identity; to seek the “peace,” the *shalom*, of the city (v 7),
- to pursue its overall harmony and prosperity; and to pray to the LORD for it (v 7).

So Jeremiah is telling believers to “overcome evil with good” by bringing their love and faith to bear on the public good of the city in which they live.

A)So in serving OUR “city,” the Christian must avoid two extremes:

- #1 Don’t isolate in Christian communes

B)#2 Don’t get so close that you are infected by the world’s sinful ways and attitude.

1)Balance In the world Of the world

The next thing that Paul says is really how we avoid falling into becoming too much like the world

A)Recognize the urgency V.11-14

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.

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. ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

Wake up

Ephesus - left first love

Revelation 3:2

Verse Concepts

‘Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

Put off the world – put on Jesus