

# **Romans 13**

## **Romans 13.1-7**

**V1** – Besides the government, what other authority are we to be in subjection to? Elders (who manage the church) – See *Heb. 13.17*

-What is the one exception to obeying the civil government? When government leaders order us to do something that violates the Gospel

-Do we have an example of this in the New Testament? See *Acts 4.19-20* – Peter and John before Sanhedrin – they resolved to obey God, rather than men

-Does this verse refer to the occasional unintentional violation of a law? No, but it is a reference to rebellion

-Why are we to obey the government? Because God has commanded it

-Suppose the government leaders are atheists? God will deal with that situation, and he has not asked for our help

**V2** – What will happen to us if we disobey the government? Condemnation

-Is it possible to disobey the government and not get caught? Yes, occasionally it can be done

**V3** – Who should fear the government? Evil people

**V4** – Are we to punish other people? See *Romans 12.19*

-Does the New Testament endorse capital punishment in this verse? It allows it, but does not command it

**V5** – We are to obey for conscience sake

**V6** – What do we get in return for our taxes? Peace in a country, and evildoers are punished

-What did Jesus say about taxes? We are to pay our taxes to the civil government

-See *Matthew 22.17-21*

**V7** – Do our taxes ever go for sinful purposes? Yes, for example, some tax money is given to support Planned Parenthood and abortions

-What about the use of bribery in foreign countries where it is an accepted practice?

We are to obey the laws of whatever country we are in

## **Romans 13.8-10**

**V8** – Is there any religious group which follows this literally? Islamic people do not believe in borrowing money, but they have a way to get around that practice, so that they can get a loan from a bank

-Is it wrong to buy something on time? We are to have a plan to repay it on time

-What New Testament example do we have where a person said, “Charge these expenses

*to my account and I will pay when I come again?"* Good Samaritan - Luke 10.33-35  
-What do we owe every person? Love

**V 9** – What is the Old Testament summation of the Ten Commandments? Lev. 19.18 – *You shall love your neighbor as yourself*

-What kind of love is being described here? Love where we do what is best for the other person, based on the Word of God

**V 10** – How is the law fulfilled in love? We do not do any wrong to a neighbor

## **Romans 13.11-14**

**V 11** – What time was it when Paul wrote this passage? Time for his readers at Rome to work out their salvation, according to the gospel of Christ

-What principle of time does Paul describe here? It is later than we think (we are closer to our eternal destiny than we have been in the past) - **Read James 4.13-16**

**V 12** – Another reference to the quick passage of time

-What time was it? Time to lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light

-Where do we have a description of the spiritual armor of the Christian? Eph. 6.13-17

**V 13** – Characteristics of a man of the world?

-Carousing

-Drunkenness

-Sexual promiscuity

-Sensuality

-Strife

-Jealousy

-Why did Paul bring up these sins? Because he was writing this letter from Corinth, one of the most wicked cities in the First Century

**V 14** – If we are trying to break a sinful habit, what does Paul recommend? Do not make any *"provision for the flesh"*

-Examples of that principle? If we are trying to give up smoking, then we should not leave cigarettes laying around the house, just in case we might have a "nicotine attack"

-When traveling, we should not flirt with trouble, just because we might be away from home

-When this writer's father was a traveling salesman, he always locked door of the motel room and refused to open it until morning