

Romans 13:1-7 Adult Bible Study 4/15/2021

Romans 12-16: How to be living sacrifices displaying the will of God.

Romans 12:1-2 “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, [a]acceptable to God, *which is* your [b]spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this [c]world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may [d]prove what the will of God is, that which is good and [e]acceptable and perfect.”

...Romans 13 is an extension of showing the will of God to the world...

Paul transitions from general Christian ethics to Christian ethics in regards to secular government.

Romans 13:1-7 can be divided into three sections answering three sections

- Why should we obey governing authorities?
- What is the purpose of governing authorities?
- How should we obey governing authorities?

Position and Reality of Governing Authorities: v.1-2

Every [a]person is to be subject to the governing authorities.

Hypertasso “subjection” to place; arrange under; to subordinate; to bring under influence; to be subordinated; to be brought under a state.

1 Corinthians 15:28 “When all things are **subjected** to Him, then the Son Himself will also be **subjected** to the One who **subjected** all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.”

1 Peter 2:13 “**Submit** yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority.

“Governing authorities”

Governing authorities: those with the position and faculty to exercise influence and authority over others, especially in regards to secular government. Those who have extraordinary position/authority.

1 Peter 2:13 “Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in **authority**,”

All governing authorities are “established” by God.

Jesus before Pilate John 19:11 “Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority [a]over Me at all, if it had not been given to you from above; for this reason the one who handed Me over to you has *the* greater sin.”

Daniel 2:21 “It is He who changes the times and the periods; He removes kings and appoints kings.”

Consequences to resisting authority: Therefore [c]whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

“resists” *antitassō* to post in adverse array, as an army

“opposed” *anthistēmi* to oppose, resist, stand out against

Implication: when the Christian inappropriately _____ governing authorities, he or she places themselves under the punishment and disapproval of God.

Purpose of government: v.3-4

Government’s twofold role in God’s economy (Note: Not perfectly but generally):

1 Peter 2:14 “or to governors as sent ^[a]by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.”

1. Reward and foster _____
2. Punish and discourage _____

The government is an extension of God’s divine common grace that sustains the moral structure of the world and simultaneously the extension of His anger and judgement towards evil.

Acts 5:29 “But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.”

Christians must distinguish between opinion-based disagreements and bible-based disagreements. Believers have no basis to disobey over personal opinion or preference, but every obligation to disobey in order to obey God’s will.

In these situations, the Christian must have the priority of gospel first. Rights are second, freedom is second, property is second, wealth is second, security is second, and our lives as second.

Response to purpose of government: v.5-7

Paul reminds us of the role government serves in God’s economy: “minister” *diakonos* one who renders service to another; an attendant, servant; one who executes a commission, a deputy

“servants” *leitourgos* a person of property who performed a public duty or service to the state at his own expense. Both ideas connote performing and realizing the will of another.

Romans 15:16 “to be a **minister** of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that *my* offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 12:23-24 “and those *members* of the body which we ^[a]deem less honorable, ^[b]on these we bestow more abundant **honor**, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, ²⁴whereas our more presentable members have no need *of it*. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant **honor** to that *member* which lacked,”

Final thought:

The _____ for obligations to the government is the reputation of the faith and the furthering of the gospel goes first before anything else.

1 Peter 2:15-17 ¹⁵For ^[b]such is the will of God, that by doing right you silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶Act as free people, and ^[c]do not use your freedom as a ^[d]covering for evil, but *use it* as bond-servants of God. ¹⁷Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the ^[e]king.”