

Romans 13:1-14

Lesson Sixteen

*“It is not enough to own a Bible; we must read it.
It is not enough to read it; we must let it speak to us.
It is not enough to let it speak to us; we must believe it.
It is not enough to believe it; we must live it.”*

William A. Ward

DAY ONE: Romans 13

1. Begin your day in prayer! Is there anything that stood out from the overview or last week’s lesson? If so, share it!

2. Write out the memory verse from last week. **Romans 12:1-2**.
 - a. Was there anything that prevented you from presenting yourself to God as a living sacrifice this week? If so, share with a friend and receive prayer!

3. Our relationship with others is a reflection of our relationship with God. As we obey **Romans 12:1&2** how will our relationship with others be affected?

“Difficult people are the nails God uses to drive us to the cross.”

Alan Redpath

4. What example did God set for us in **Romans 5:8** when we were “difficult”?

5. Read **Romans 13** through completely at one sitting. Go back and read it again, and note any fresh insight that God gives you.
 - a. If you had to give **Romans 13** one title, what would it be?

‘What is the relationship between the believer and the state?’ This question has been debated down through the centuries. Which is supreme, the church or the state? God pulls no punches in dealing with the issue in Romans 13, and what He has to say to the genuine believer is startling to some persons. Simply stated, God expects the genuine believer to live as a testimony of righteousness (doing what is right) while a citizen of this earth.

6. Look up and record the definitions of the following phrase and word using your study tools:
 - a. ***Be subject*** (#5293):
 - b. ***Appointed - Ordained*** (#5021):

7. Read **Romans 13:1-7** and record what it says under each heading in the chart below:

| Governing Authority | Our Consequences | Application for Your Life |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| | | |

8. What three things does Paul say the Government is for in **Romans 13:1-7**?
 - a. **Verses 1-2:**
 - b. **Verses 3-5:**
 - c. **Verses 6-7:**

9. As we have seen in previous studies, what provision has God given us for obedience according to **Romans 1:5**?

10. It is often difficult to obey governing authorities when they are corrupt. What does **Proverbs 21:1** say about whom is in control...regardless of what things appear to be?
11. We, as believers, must be careful that we look at our own responsibility to obey and not give excuses why we will not obey. What does **Romans 14:12** say about accountability?
12. According to **Romans 13:3-4**, what can you do to keep from living in fear of the authorities?
13. What did Jesus tell the Disciples about paying taxes in **Mark 12:15-17**?
 - a. Many Christians argue that we should not pay taxes. Do you see any Scriptural basis against paying taxes? If so, give them here.
 - b. In obedience to **Philippians 4:8**, list some *good* things that come from our tax dollars and praise God for them!

DAY TWO: Romans 13:1-7

1. For further understanding, read **Romans 13:1-7** in the Living Bible Translation below:

“Obey the government, for God is the one who has put it there. There is no government anywhere that God has not placed in power. So those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow. For the policeman does not frighten people who are doing right; but those doing evil will always fear him. So if you don't want to be afraid, keep the laws and you will get along well. The policeman is sent by God to help you. But if you are doing something wrong, of course you should be afraid, for he will have you punished. He is sent by God for that very purpose. Obey the laws, then, for two reasons: first, to keep from being punished, and second, just because you know you should. Pay your taxes too, for these same two reasons. For government workers need to be paid so that they can keep on doing God's work, serving you. Pay everyone whatever he ought to have: pay your taxes and import duties gladly, obey those over you, and give honor and respect to all those to whom it is due.”
2. Note that the Apostle is telling us to obey the authorities who are placed over us. What does **Matthew 28:18** say?
3. Though we are to obey, there is a time that we must *“obey God rather than man”* (Acts 5:29) and the consequences could be physical death. How does **2 Peter 2:9-10** encourage you as a believer to obey authority that God has placed over you?

Challenge: Read **Daniel 3** and list the order of events, who was involved and what do you know about them? What do you learn about God from this Chapter?

4. Let's look up a few Scriptures written by two Apostles, Peter and Paul, who were eventually killed for their faith by the very government they were telling the Christians to obey. Write out what they had to say about this matter:

- a. **Paul in 1 Timothy 2:1-2:**
 - b. **Peter in 1 Peter 2:13-17:**
5. List the authorities that have been placed over you in your life today?
 6. What is the result in our lives when we resist authority, according to **verse 2**?
 7. What do you think keeps us from wanting to obey?
 - a. What should you do when you do not agree with the authorities placed over you?

Personal:

- b. Who do you have problems obeying (*please don't share this with the group ~ don't put anyone in a bad light*).
 - c. Do some searching and find out what the Word has to say about your situation. If you need help in this type of word or subject search, ask your group leader after the study!
8. If God has placed you in an authoritative position (dad, mom, boss, Bible study leader, etc.)...
 - a. How are you fulfilling your role?
 - b. Are you easy to obey?

c. Look up **Colossians 4:1** and comment:

d. Ultimately we all have a Master in Heaven! Make it your prayer today that you would be following His example.

DAY THREE: Romans 13:8-10

1. Take some time in prayer and then read **Romans 13:1-10**.
2. What is our debt as a Christian according to **Romans 13:8**?
 - a. Why (Romans 13:8b)?
3. Look up the word used for *love* (#25) in **Romans 13:8** and write out the definition here:

4. What is the New Commandment that Christ gave to us from **John 13:34**?

a. What will be the result (**John 13:35**)?

5. Look up and comment on **Galatians 5:13-16**.

6. Simply sum up the law of God in one word: _____.

7. Look up the following passages and list what they have to say about “**love**”.

| Romans 13 | 1 John 4 | 1 Corinthians 13 |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| | | |

- Take some time and allow God to speak to you about what you have studied today. What was the most impressive aspect of today's study?

DAY FOUR: Romans 13:11-14

- Begin your day with prayer. Then Read **Romans 13:11-14**.

- Commit **Romans 13:14** to memory. Write it out several times.

“But _____ the Lord Jesus Christ, and make _____ for the _____, to fulfill its _____.”

- Read **Matthew 24:42-51**. How does this portion of Scripture tie in with **Romans 13**?

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.
Jude 1:20-21

- Look up and read **1 Thessalonians 5:1-6**. What does it say about us as Christians, *children of the light*?

- Fill in the chart below by using the text from **Ephesians 5:11-18**.

| What We Are To Do... | What We Are Not To Do... |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| | |

- How would living a **Romans 12:1-2** life sum up the Scriptures you have looked up?

- Paul give us admonitions in the light of the Lord's imminent return. List the admonitions from **Romans 13:11-14**.

8. What are some things that could be considered “*the works of darkness*” according to the Word of God?

9. What is the “*armor (#3696) of light (#5457)*” spoken of in **Romans 13:12**? You may want to do a word study using your study tools.

10. Look up the following phrases Paul uses in **Romans 13:13** that instruct us what to “*cast off*”. Be sure to use your study tools!
 - a. *Revelry* (#2970):

 - b. *Drunkenness* (#3178):

 - c. *Lewdness – Chambering* (#2845):

 - d. *Lust - Wantonness* (#766):

 - e. *Strife* (#2054):

 - f. *Envy* (#2205):

“For the free gift of eternal salvation is now being offered to everyone; and along with this gift comes the realization that God wants us to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures and to live good, God-fearing lives day after day, looking forward to that wonderful time we've been expecting, when His glory shall be seen-- the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Titus 2:11-13 (TLB)

DAY FIVE: Romans 13:1-14

1. Begin your day with prayer. Then Read **Romans 13:1-14**.

2. Continue to commit **Romans 13:14** to memory if you can. Write it out several times on a separate sheet of paper.
“But _____ the Lord _____ Christ, and make _____ for the _____, to _____ its _____.”

3. Read what Peter wrote in **1 Peter 2:11-18**.
 - a. How did Peter address his audience in **verse 11b**?
 - 1) Look up **1 John 2:17** and comment:

- b. What will be the result if we abstain from fleshly lusts according to **1 Peter 2:12**?
 - c. Who are we to submit to according to **verses 13-14**?
 - d. Why do we submit to governing authorities according to **verse 15**?
 - e. How does Peter describe us in **verse 16**?
 - 1) How could we use liberty as “*a cloak for vice*”?
 - f. What five things does Peter call us to do as believers in **verses 17-18**?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5)
4. What do the following phrases mean? Use your study tools.
- a. ***Put on:*** (#1746)
 - b. ***Provision:*** (#4307)
 - c. ***Flesh:*** (#4561)
5. Read **James 1:13-15** and answer the following questions?
- a. Who is the one tempting us with sin?
 - b. Where does desire begin?
 - c. What happens when our desire has conceived?
 - d. What does sin produce?
- Personal:*** Is there a sin or something that is not pleasing to God that you are entertaining in your mind or heart? If so, take it and lay it at the Cross of Jesus through prayer!
6. The surrendered life means a life consecrated to God and turning away from our old nature. Part of being set apart unto God is not allowing yourself to be in a compromising situation. List some situations that you would consider compromising and share them with your group:

John MacAurthur says: *“The phrase ‘No Provision’ has the basic meaning of planning ahead or forethought. Most sinful behavior results from wrong ideas and lustful desires we allow to linger in our minds.”*

7. How would hiding **Romans 12:1-2** in your heart help in making no provision for the flesh?

8. Can you say with Paul (**Acts 24:16**) that you always strive to have a blameless conscience before God and man? What are some ways you need to change in this area?

9. Is there anything in this lesson that particularly blessed you this week? Please share it with your group.

*“Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.
Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.”*
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