

Romans 13:1 *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

Paul's letters usually begin with doctrine and then the conclusion of his letters end with the practical side and how the word is lived out. One of the practical sides Paul mentions in this letter is that authorities are put in place and are ordained by God.

The Greek word for subject is *hupotassō* and means to obey and the Greek word for appointed is *tassō* and means to assign or to *arrange* in an orderly manner. God operates in a system of order and structure. He did not fail to enforce systems and appoint authorities in the physical realm.

It is God's will for man to submit to government and authorities (1 Peter 2:13).

Romans 13:2 *Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.*

The Greek word for resist is *antitassomai* and means to range in battle against or to oppose one's self. Not every law is Godly but the ones that a believer should comply. If we resist Godly authority, we are resisting God and we bring judgment on ourself.

Many riots and burning down of businesses have broken out due to opposing government rulings.

Romans 13:3 *For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.*

Authorities are put in place for our behalf. The only person that has to fear authority is one who is rebelling at the law.

Much of what is taking place today is the refusal to submit to authorities and then one finds themselves in a worse position than the initial encounter that took place.

Romans 13:4 *For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.*

Authorities are God's minister to help protect society and keep peace amongst civilization. If we chose to not comply with authority, they have a right to punish us. It is not God punishing us but authority is put in place and there are consequences to our actions. There are governments that have laws or rules that are not Godly and we should not obey those.

Romans 13:5 *Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.*

Paul states there are two reasons a person should comply with authority. First, because the government can punish us and also to keep a good conscience. This verse does not say we should submit ourselves to authority because God will punish us.

The conscience helps us detect right from wrong. It is our responsibility to keep our conscience pure.

Romans 13:6 *For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing.*

Paying taxes is a Godly structure set in place and is a command. Even Jesus paid taxes (Mt 17:25).

Romans 13:7 *Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.*

The word render in Greek is apodidōmi and means to give back. Jesus Himself said to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and God what belongs to God (Luke 20:25). Many people fail to follow this because they are against the policies because a person has abused them. It is not Biblical to avoid government authority because it may have been previously abused by a person.

Romans 13:8 *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.*

All 613 commandments can be summed into one command; love. Jesus said “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another” (John 13:34). This was a new command in that now we can fulfill it because the love of God is shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Ghost and we can now release to others what we have (Rom 5:5).

Romans 13:9 *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."*

This is a quotation from Exodus 20:13-17 and are part of the 10 commandments. Adultery, murder, stealing, bearing false witness, covetousness, are all things that love would not do to another person. If we are walking in our new identity in Christ which is love, these behaviors will be far from us.

If we asked a question how many people have murdered someone; many people would not raise their hand. But if we asked how many people have hated someone in their heart, every hand

would go up. This was the true intent of the law. This was to expose the sin nature on the inside of us and show all are under sin and apart from Jesus, we are nothing (Gal 3:22).

Romans 13:10 *Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

Love fulfills all the commandments of the law. Love will always seek the betterment of others and not put self first. God's kind of love is selfless.

Romans 13:11 *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.*

This is referring to a spiritual sleep and the position a believer has in advancing the kingdom. We should not be stagnant but taking the kingdom of darkness by force (Mt 11:12).

Romans 13:12 *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.*

In the book of Ephesians and Colossians, Paul goes into detail about putting off the old man because he is dead (Eph 4:22-24). Casting off the works of darkness only comes through understanding the old man is dead and we now have a new identity in Christ that we should abide in and bear fruit unto holiness. God will never tell us to start something without first seeing who we are and the supply He has placed within us to do what he has called us to do.

Romans 13:13 *Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.*

Drunkenness is listed right next to strife. The Bible does not forbid drinking but it does forbid drunkenness (Eph 5:18).

Romans 13:14 *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*

Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ is the same thing Paul spoke about in Ephesians chapter six when he said to put on the full armor of God. The seven pieces of armor all point to Jesus. Our salvation comes from Jesus, His righteousness is imputed to us (2 Cor 5:21), we have His faith (Gal 2:20), He is the truth (Jn 14:6), He is the Word made flesh (Jn 1:14), and there is no Gospel or Good News outside Jesus finished works. Every piece of armor we put on we are clothing ourself with Christ.

The word provision in Greek is *pronoia* and means forethought. Before we can ever make provision for the flesh it first has to go through our thought life. We cannot do anything in our bodies that we have not first thought of in our minds.