

The Book of Romans

Chapter Thirteen - Life Principles

I. Introduction - Greatest Book in the New Testament for the Christian!

This one Book in your Bible condenses down into 16 chapters the greatest themes of all humanity - the themes of understanding sin, God's judgment, justification by faith, sanctification (clean living), victory over sin, eternal security, and serving Christ!

II. Book Review So Far - There are *Six Sections* (main subjects) in Romans

A. SECTION ONE - **Sin** - Chapters 1 & 2

Chapter 1. **The Righteousness and Wrath of God** - Describes the condition of the human heart in very vivid terms - as depraved (ruined utterly in character or quality)!

Chapter 2. **The Sin of Self-Righteousness** - There are so many people who look at the list and find some way of excusing THEMSELVES, and looking down at OTHERS - "civilised" vs "heathen" and the lower classes

B. SECTION TWO - **Our Great Salvation** - Chapters 3-5 (*Justification*)

Chapter 3. The fact of There Being No Difference - No Excuses

Chapter 4. How To Become Strong in Faith

Chapter 5. The Benefits of Salvation

C. SECTION THREE - **The Christians' Sanctification** - Chapters 6-7

D. SECTION FOUR - **The Believer's Security in Christ** - Chapter 8

E. SECTION FIVE of the Book of Romans - **The Special Place of Israel in God's overall plan**. This section explains a lot of the background to the history in the Middle East, and help us Gentiles understand the level of God's commitment to us! There are 3 chapters in this section (chapters 9, 10, 11).

Chapter 9. The Position of Israel - A special place of use

Chapter 10. The Need of Israel - to get the Gospel

Chapter 11. The Future of Israel - God's plan for them in the future

F. SECTION SIX - **The Christians' Service** - Chapters 12-16

Chapter 12. God's Gifts of Provision - how Christ enables us to serve

Chapter 13. Christian Life Principles

III. Focus Verse: Romans 13:14

IV. Lesson Outline - Christian Life Principles - Part 1 (Rom 13:1-21)

Chapters 12-16 are some of the hardest Scriptures for Christians because they quite clearly tell us HOW to live our lives. These are not suggestions, but commandments of God just as valid as *THOU SHALT NOT KILL*.

A. **Be in Subjection** (13:1-7) - dealing with authority!

1. _____

There are four reasons to be submissive to the higher powers: Because God is in Control; Because otherwise you reap what you sow (Condemnation) for being in rebellion; Because you need to be Consistent in your Christian life, and Because of your Conscience

a. *Because, God is in _____* (Rom 13:1-2)

1) ___ power originates with God

2) Satan operates under God's authority, but over us (Lk 4:5,6)!

3) All power has been transferred to _____ (Mt 28:18)

4) The powers that be operate either under the rule of Law based upon the Bible, or under Satan – all **by our choice**

5) But through it all, God is still in final control!

6) Best example is in Job where Satan must get permission

7) Who are the higher powers? Most people only submit to their belly (Phlp 3:19)

- a) _____ - be obedient to His word, His ways, His will (Jam 4:7). He is the absolute authority over the universe (Ps 100).
- b) _____ - be subject unto Him in your life as well - subject unto Christ's life being lived through you (Gal 2:20). Jesus is not domineering, and so must be yielded to out of love (John 14:15). A person who says they are submitted to God (like a Muslim), but is not submitted to Christ, is a liar.
- c) _____ - Submit to him (not his will) by not fighting him directly when he attacks - go to the top (God, Jude 1:9) and get God's intervention and armour, and then you can wrestle him (Eph 4:12). It is the hand of the Lord working on you to mature and perfect you like it did Job.
- d) _____ - no matter how old you are, you *need* them (Pr 23:22; Eph 6:1-3; Col 3:20) - listen to them - let them have input in your life - earn their trust by trusting them! Submit as long as they do not go against clear Scripture.
- e) _____ (Rom 13:1-5; 1Pet 2:13-15). A Christian of all people must be a good example of a citizen, no matter what country or government you are in. But, how do you "submit" to tyrannical, or grossly corrupt government?
- (i) By going along with their commands - not murmuring
 - (ii) By only going until God's laws are crossed (Ex 1:7-17)
 - (iii) Maintain a meek, quiet, but resolved spirit - like Christ
- f) _____ (1Pet 5:5) - age means experience and wisdom. Let an "elder" have input into your life - don't be so independent that you only breed more rebelliousness! Younger women **MUST** listen to older women, and younger men **MUST** listen to older men (Titus 2). Again, this only goes until they tell you to do something unscriptural.
- g) _____ (Heb 13:17) - God placed him there to guide and protect you and your family - like a shepherd, so allow him to "lead" you, not just "confirm" your own ways! Thank God for a pastor that challenges you to do right!
- h) _____ (1Pet 2:18; Eph 6:5-7; Col 3:22-25; 1Ti 6:1-4; Tit 2:9-10) - God placed you under them also! They need to know that their best workers are Christian workers!
- i) _____ (Eph 5:21-24) - be in submission, not domination. Dwell under the same rules you make for your spouse. Allow your spouse to disagree, and discuss things so that just one person isn't always making all decisions.
- j) **Note: Your children are NOT in authority, and neither are your friends!**
- 8) How does God view rebellion? (1 Sam 15:23; 12:14,15). No Christian should ever take rebellion lightly - you could be going against God and His work against your nation (Rom 13), as was the case with all of Judah being taken captive by Babylon as a judgment (Jer 21:4,5 - occupational army, as was Rome in Jesus' day).
- 9) There does come a time when you must rebel - when lives, and your conscience are at stake (ie, protecting Jews during WW2, and Martin Luther standing against the Roman Catholic Church)
- 10) Notes on **the Separation of Church and State**. Romans 13 is why a Bible believer firmly believes in the SEPARATION of the Church (dominate religion) and the State (the Government):
- a) Which is most powerful - the "Church" or the Government?
 - (i) If the Church, you end up with _____
 - (ii) If the Government, you end up with _____
 - (iii) If the two are equal and subject to each other, then you have *safety* because of checks and balances!
 - b) If a church can gain control of the civil government, then they can force everybody to "believe" *their way* under the penalty of physical punishment - the breaking of civil laws!
 - c) This is not to say that a government is above God, or His Laws (they were written *for* governments), but that **NO** Church can dominate the government!
 - d) A Church-State exists so that one church can get everyone's money whether they want to give it or not - make it into a TAX - and make it illegal for anyone to withhold that tax

Places where there are State-Churches	Places where there is religious freedom
Constantine merged pagan government with Christianity back in 315AD - torture Saudi Arabia - Muslim - torture Iraq - Muslim - torture Spain - Roman Catholic - torture Italy - Roman Catholic - torture Germany - Lutheran - tortured dissenters	Ireland - has not always been this way - just recently begun separating the church's power from the Government United States - everyone came because of religious persecution here in Europe Canada - Same

- 11) Notice the Catholic Inquisition - The Catholic Church had the Civil government carry out all its tortures and killings against those who saw that either the government, or the dominate Religious institution was above the Bible.
- _____ (1369-1415) - Czechoslovakian (Bohemian) priest burned at the stake for reading and preaching the Bible everywhere, instead of only in cathedrals.
 - _____ (1452-1498) - Italian Catholic priest who believed all the sacraments, but just wanted to read and believe the Bible - tortured and then burned at the stake
 - _____ (1320-1384) - English Catholic priest who read the Bible and began to cry out against the corruption in the "church." He translated the entire Bible into early English. Set up a group of preachers who went all over England teaching the Bible in English. The Pope ordered his bones dug up and burned!
 - _____ (1490-1536) - English Catholic priest who took up John Wycliff's translation work, and finished just the New Testament. Burned at the stake!
 - Entire communities were wiped out (Huguenots, etc) not because they were evil, but because they would not cross the lines that Scripture had ordained.

We have looked at the first motivation for Submission - Because God is in control, and commands it. And we also saw the limits of that submission - that there comes a time to resist. There is also a second reason for submission to the higher powers:

- Because of* _____ (Rom 13:2-4) - you reap what you sow (Gal 6:7)
 - Resistance is the same as *rebellion* - a heart issue. Make sure resistance is well thought-out - not emotional!
 - Resistance is wrong unless what you are being asked to do is clearly against Scripture (Acts 4:17-20) - examples:
 - A doctor being told to perform abortions (Ex 20:13) - that doctor is guilty of murder, and condemned.
 - A Christian being asked to sell liquor (Hab 2:15). God will chastise a Christian for going against the Scripture that saved them!
 - A teacher being told to teach homosexuality to her class, or *heterosexuality* for that matter!
 - Most people love to rebel because it is in their nature - but that is why God gave parents the responsibility to *break* that rebellion, and get their children to conform to doing right (Prov 22:15) - or else they will only cause and reap ruin! That is why God created human government - to put limits on freedom, because human nature is flawed, and rebellious.
 - Rebellion only brings God's judgment against YOU instead of those that it belongs on (1Pet 5:5; Rom 12:19-21)!
 - The government is supposed to control the actions of people
 - If a government comes down hard on evil doers, then it is of God - if the government does not take care of evil doers, God holds the government responsible (Luke 12:48)!
- Because you need* _____ *as a Christian* (Rom 13:3,4)
 - To become a Christian, you must submit and surrender to Christ
 - To live the Christian life, you must remain submissive, NOT aggressive and domineering (1Pet 5:5)

- 3) You can't have it both ways - come to Christ humble, and then a life of pride and rebellion - you must stay consistent (Cf David in Psalm 51 finally getting back his broken and contrite heart).
- 4) That includes submitting to Capital Punishment (Cf Acts 25:11)
 - a) God's way of handling deadly sins - causing death
 - b) God's ordained way of governments handling evil doers
 - c) A true deterrent - safeguards the value of life
- d. *Because of your _____* (Rom 13:5) - Testimony to the World
 - 1) Submit because you have to live with yourself - that's why people drink, and turn their music up so loud - to drown out the guilt, shame, and remorse for past deeds and rebellion and hurts that THEY have inflicted, not just that have inflicted on them.
 - 2) Submit because you have to live with the Holy Spirit inside (Eph 4:30-32) - the Holy Spirit within the Christian will plague the disobedient Christian until they get right with God.
2. The _____ (Examples) of Submission
 - a. Joseph in Egypt (Gen 39:4)
 - b. Daniel - carried away captive, but had a limit (Dan 1,3)
 - c. The Three Hebrew Children, came to the idol, but would not bow (Dan 4)
 - d. The Apostles, Peter (Acts 4), and Paul (Acts 21:17-26)
 - e. This is definitely NOT an easy thing because as Christians, we see injustices usually clearer than others, but injustices don't demand riots
 - f. Esther overturned oppression THROUGH submission!!!
3. The _____ of Submission (Rom 13:6-7)
 - a. In Attitude – don't think that you can obey without a good attitude!
 - b. In Tribute (13:6; Luke 20:20-26) - financially
 - 1) As a citizen – pay your taxes
 - 2) As a church member – pay your tithe
 - 3) We do things because they are RIGHT not because they are popular or easy
 - c. In Honour (13:7) - Respect, preferring one another, especially, those in places of authority
- B. **Manage Your _____** (13:8-10) – another very important command
 1. A Christian's _____ Debt - must be paid, yet can never be paid in full
 - a. To God
 - b. To other Christians
 - c. To the Lost – testifying of their need to repent
 2. A Christian's Monetary Debt - must be paid off ASAP!
 3. Prov 22:7
- C. **Wear Your _____** (13:11-14) - Christian Works, Efforts that fight against the powers of darkness
 1. Put off the Works of Darkness – like you would bugs, or filth on you
 - a. Rioting – living “on the edge” so to speak, rock concerts, revelling
 - b. Drunkenness -
 - c. Chambering - “Lewd, immodest behavior.” (Webster.) The Greek word includes illicit indulgences of all kinds, adultery, etc.
 - d. Wantonness – out of control sexual behaviour
 - e. Strife – fighting, arguing, hating
 - f. Envy - covetousness
 2. Put on the “Armour of Light” – This is a Christian's _____
 - a. Be fully aware of the time that we are living in (13:11)

- b. Live an honest and open life - don't get into the habit of covering your sins, or your failures
- c. Live the Life of Christ - don't attempt to make your own name - it ends with your goal being pride, and that ends in destruction (Pr 16:18; 18:12)
- d. Make NO provision for your flesh, or for anyone else's! The flesh is your love for this world over and above Gpd (1 John 2:15-17)
 - 1) The flesh will only pull you down (Rom 8:12,13)
 - 2) The flesh and Spirit do not get along (Gal 5:17; 1Pet 2:11)
 - 3) The flesh must be put to death every day (Col 3:5-8)
 - 4) So, don't feed it - with wrong music, TV, books, etc! You will only be brought back under its domination, and destruction (Rom 6)
- e. Put on The Whole Armour of God (Eph 6:11-18) which is a shining armour against the powers of darkness!
 - 1) The Belt of Truth
 - 2) The Breastplate of Righteousness
 - 3) The Boots of a Gospel Witness
 - 4) The Buckler (Shield) of Faith
 - 5) The Helmet of Salvation
 - 6) The Bible - Sword of the Spirit
 - 7) The Bond of Prayer

V. Conclusion - The Christian must learn the following life principles:

A. **Be in Submission** (13:1-7) - dealing with authority!

1. The Motivation for Submission
 - a. *Because, God is in Control*
 - b. *Because of Condemnation* - You will Reap what you Sow
 - c. *Because you need Consistency as a Christian*
 - d. *Because of your Conscience*
2. The Models (Examples) of Submission
 - a. Daniel (Dan)
 - b. The Three Hebrew Children
 - c. The Apostles, Peter (Acts 4), and Paul
3. The Methods of Submission
 - a. In Attitude
 - b. In Tribute (13:6; Luke 20:20-26)
 - c. In Honour (13:7)

B. **Manage Your Debt** (13:8-10)

1. A Christian's Eternal Debt - must be paid, yet can never be in full
2. A Christian's Monetary Debt - must be paid off ASAP!

C. **Wear Your Armour** (13:11-14) - Christian Works, Efforts

1. Put off the Works of Darkness
2. Put on the Armour of Light - Protection against Satanic Oppression