
Romans 13:13 Let us **behave decently**, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.

Romans 13:14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

What about civil disobedience?

a. Hebrew midwives. (Ex. 1:15-16).

Their rationale? "But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live." (v. 17-21)

b. Moses' mother, Jochebed. (Ex. 2:3, 7-9)

c. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. (Daniel 3:12-13)

d. Peter and John were arrested "because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead." (Acts 4:2)

"for we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20)

e. Peter and the apostles.

Acts 5:28 "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

Pg 1: authority; Pg 2: restraint; conscience; Pg 3: love; Jesus'.

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Government and Citizenship

How Then Shall We Live?—part 2

Romans 13

September 13, 2015

God delegates _____ to government.

Romans 13:1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority,¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.

¹⁶ Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.

¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

Romans 13:2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Why we should obey the laws of the state?

Reason #1: Government puts a _____ on human evil by punishing it. (vv. 1-4)

Romans 13:3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

⁴ *For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.*

Reason #2: For _____ sake (vv. 5-7)

*Romans 13:5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, **not only** because of possible **punishment** but also **because of conscience**.*

⁶ *This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.*

⁷ *Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.*

*Acts 24:16 So I always take pains to have a **clear conscience** before God and man.*

Reason #3: For _____ sake.

*Romans 13:8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except **the continuing debt to love one another**, for he who **loves** his fellowman has fulfilled the law.*

⁹ *The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: **"Love your neighbor as yourself."***

¹⁰ ***Love** does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore **love** is the fulfillment of the law.*

"If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary."

-- James Madison, Federalist Papers

"Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

- George Washington's farewell address

Reason #4: For _____ sake (v. 11-14)

*Romans 13:11 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, **because our salvation is nearer now** than when we first believed.*

*Romans 13:12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us **put aside the deeds of darkness** and **put on the armor of light**.*
