

# Romans

## How to be a Christian without Being Religious!

Lesson 13

Romans 13:1-14

The Believer's Relationship to the State!

1. Read Romans 13:1-7. Paul has dealt with our relationship to God (Rom. 12:1-2), to other believers (Rom. 12:3-16), and to our enemies (Rom. 12:17-21). Now, he wants to teach us how we are to relate to government authorities. God created three institutions. Do you know what they are? For help, see Gen. 2:18-25; Gen. 9:1-17; and Acts 2.
2. According to verse 1, what does the Lord require us to do concerning governing authorities? Who established these authorities (Daniel 4:17 and 25)? Are we required to submit to evil authorities (Daniel 1:1-17)? Is there ever a point where a Christian should rebel against government laws (Daniel 3; Acts 4:18-19 [Peter and John before the Sanhedrin]; and, Acts 5:27-29)?
3. Who is ultimately behind the ordination of civil government? If we rebel against government who are we rebelling against? How does Paul instruct us to live lives free of fear (verse 3)? Rulers exist for the benefit of society. They are God's \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 4). What role do rulers play in God's scheme of protecting the world (verse 4)?
4. What does Paul have to say about paying taxes? If you cheat on your income taxes who are you cheating? What should we give to everyone (verse 7)?
5. Read Romans 13:8-10. What is the one debt that a believer is never to pay off? What are the two greatest commandments according to Jesus? Read Matthew 22:36-40. Why did Jesus say, "All the Law and the Prophets (the entire OT) hang on these two commandments?" How is love the fulfillment of the Law?
6. Read verse 9. Who is our neighbor? Read Luke 10:25-37.

7. Read Romans 13:11-14. Paul is looking forward to the imminent return of Jesus. With this in mind, Paul gives at least 6 admonitions. What are they?
  
8. What do you think Paul means by “our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed,” and “the night is nearly over; the day is almost here” (Mt. 24:33; James 5:7-9; and II Peter 3:11-14)?
  
9. Read verse 14. How do we clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:24; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 3:1-17)?
  
10. How do you avoid thinking about gratifying the desires of the sinful nature? Read Romans 12:2; Philippians 4:8.