

“Live the right life in your community”

Romans 13:1-14

It's our obedient response to God's mercy (Romans 12:1,2)

Be subject to the governing authorities

Verses 1 to 7

God has put them there.

They are agents of God's wrath.

God's servants for your good.

We are personally obligated to obey God in the matter.

Do so by paying taxes and revenue, showing respect and honour.

Is subject to the same as obey? Yes and No.

Leave no debt remain outstanding

Verse 8a

Leaving debts outstanding is not loving.

Continually show love to all

Verses 8 to 10

It sums up all that God wants us to do.

It does no harm to others.

It's relating to all as you would to yourself.

Do this as a matter of appropriate behaviour for a Christian and out of urgency.

Verses 11 to 14

Get on with it.

Don't give up – Christ will return.

Be encouraged.

Behave decently as ones clothed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

A Bible Study – Romans 13:1-14

Chapters 12 to 16 are a call to appropriate thinking and behaviour in response to God's mercy Chapters 1 to 11; behaviour and thinking that is like Christ – sacrificial (Romans 12:1,2). Chapters 1 to 11 have been about how God has made us right with himself through Christ. Chapters 12 to 16 are now about how to live as people who have been made right with God through Christ. In this Bible Study we consider how we are to live in our community?

Open with a prayer asking God to teach you from His word.

Read: Romans 13:1-14.

Questions:

1. Go around the group and listen to what each member found interesting about this chapter on their first read and what questions it raised for them? (*Don't seek to provide an answer just listen*)
2. Governing authorities are more than just the State. What other authorities are there?
3. What is the Christian obligated to do with regard to governing authorities"? Why? (*Consider also Romans 12:1,2 in your answers*)
The Christian is not asked to obey but to be subject to. There will be times when our obedience is being subject to and our disobedience also being subject to. When and why? (*Consider Matthew 22:21; Daniel 3:13-18; Acts 5:27-32; Acts 4:13-31 and Ephesians 5:12*)
4. What practical ways are given in verses 6 and 7 that show we do subject ourselves to the governing authorities? Can you think of other ways?
5. What "debt" are we **not** to "remain outstanding"? Why? (See vss 8 to 10)
Are there any other "debts" we can let remain outstanding? Why?
What is "love"? (Consider John 15:9-14; 1 John 4:7-12 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a)
6. In verses 11 to 14 Paul implies a sense of urgency to "do this". Why?
7. What do you understand Paul to mean by us "putting on the armour of light" and "cloth yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ"? How would this help us "do this" and "not gratify the desires of the flesh"?

Close with prayer.

In preparation for the next Bible Study read ahead Romans 14:1-23

This Bible Study is such that it can be done on one's own or with others in a Bible Study Group - even around the table at home. It's designed to help you to remember the sermon, grow in your knowledge and love of God, appreciate your fellowship with other believers and to take your part in the life of the Church as followers of Jesus Christ - Trevor Young – Senior Minister Abbotsford Anglican