

Bible Study Guide – Romans 13:1-14
Pleasant View Church of Christ – Fall 2023

Titus 3:1 (ESV)
"Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work"

1Pe 2:13-17 (ESV)
"Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution..."

Natural follow-up to Paul's discussion at the end of Chapter 12 on the Christian's interaction with the world around them.

Why are governments necessary? What would happen without them? What is the scope of the phrase "governing authorities?"

¹Let every person **be subject to the governing authorities**. For there is *no authority except from God*, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Jesus Was NOT a Political Revolutionary

Matt 22:15-22 (ESV)
"render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's"

Matt 26:47-56 (ESV)
"Friend, do what you came to do."

John 18:33-38 (ESV)
"My kingdom is not of this world."

John 19:10-11 (ESV)
"You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above."

Why does Paul use "subject to" or "in subjection" rather than "obey?" What if the rulings of men are contrary to God's will? (**Acts 5:27-29**)

²Therefore whoever resists the **authorities** resists what *God has appointed*, and those who resist will incur judgment.

Romans 8:28 (KJV)
"And we know that all things work together for good..."

³For **rulers** are *not a terror to good conduct*, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is **in authority**? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,

What world events of that time would have prompted Paul to write about submission to government? What was the political climate for the Jewish people?

⁴for **he** is God's servant *for your good*. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

Are Christians persecuted by certain authorities because of their "good conduct" or simply because they are Christian?

⁵Therefore one must be **in subjection**, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

Luke 10:7 (ESV)
"the laborer deserves his wages"

Mark 12:14-17 (ESV)
"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's"

⁶For because of this you also *pay taxes*, for the **authorities** are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.

⁷Pay to all *what is owed to them*: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

? What is Paul's overall point in verses 1-7?

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Literally “let no debt remain outstanding” (i.e. continue to owe)

“Love your neighbor as yourself,” is a generic law that includes specific commandments of God. Why is this an important concept to learn when studying scripture?
-**John 3:16**
-**Romans 10:13**

⁸**Owe no one anything**, except to love each other, for the one who *loves another has fulfilled the law.*

⁹For the commandments, “**You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,**” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**”

¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is *the fulfilling of the law.* <-**John 13:34**

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that *the hour has come for you to wake from sleep.* For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us *cast off the works of darkness* and put on the *armor of light.*

Eph 6:10-20 - The Whole Armor of God

¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in *orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.*

¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and *make no provision for the flesh*, to gratify its desires.

Matt 22:34-40

Love God:

Exo 20:3-11

Deut 6:5;

10:12-13;

11:1

John 14:15,

21, 23-24

Love Neighbor:

Exo 20:12-17

Lev 19:18

Rom 13:9,10

Jam 2:8

Matt 24:36 (ESV)

“But concerning that day and hour no one knows...”

Matt 25:1-13 (ESV)

“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

1Th 5:1-11 (ESV)

“the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night... But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.”

Gal 5:17-22

Desires of the flesh

Romans Chapter 13 - Questions for Discussion

Memory Verse:

Romans 13:9 (ESV)

⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word:^(K) "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

What world events of that time would have prompted Paul to write about submission to government? What was the political climate for the Jewish people? (vv. 1-7; Matt 22:21)

Why are world governments necessary? What would happen without them? What is the scope of the word "government?" What is included? (vv. 1-7)

In what sense are world governments "established" or "ordained" by God? Does this mean that those in power will always do the will of God. (vv. 1-7)

Is Paul telling these Christians to obey the government of the land even if its decrees are contrary to God's laws? (vv. 1-7)

What is Paul's overall point in verses 1-7?

Is Paul saying that it is wrong for a Christian to incur debt? (v. 8)

In verse 9 Paul identifies the phrase, "Love your neighbor as yourself," as a generic phrase that includes specific commandments of God. What are some other generic phrases in scripture that also sum up specific commands? Why is this an important concept to learn when studying scripture? (Matt 22:34-40, Mark 12:29-31, John 3:16, Romans 10:13)

How does Paul challenge these Christians to live? (vv. 11-14)

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Be Subject to Authorities:

Titus 3:1 (ESV)

¹ Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work,

1 Peter 2:13–17 (ESV)

¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Jesus Was NOT a Political Revolutionary:

Christ never led a riot, organized an underground, criticized the government, or took the part of the Jews against Rome. He did not offer himself as an advocate against society on behalf of any so-called victim of social injustice; and, once, he even refused to aid a man who claimed that he had been robbed of his inheritance (Luke 12:13). Jesus Christ was not a revolutionary in any sense of that word today. Although it is true that his holy teachings had the profoundest influence upon the course of history, it was always as leaven and not as dynamite that his influence worked.¹

Matthew 22:15–22 (ESV)

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. ¹⁶ And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" ²¹ They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

¹ Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on Romans 13:1". "Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament". <http://www.studylight.org/com/bcc/view.cgi?book=ro&chapter=013>". Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

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Matthew 26:47–56 (ESV)

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.” ⁴⁹ And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him. ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. ⁵¹ And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?” ⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. ⁵⁶ But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left him and fled.

John 18:33–38 (ESV)

³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” ³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸ Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him.

John 19:10–11 (ESV)

¹⁰ So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” ¹¹ Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”

Working for Your Good:

Romans 8:28 (ESV)

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

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Rulings of Men vs. Will of God:

Acts 5:27–29 (ESV)

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.

Paying Taxes, Honor, Respect:

Luke 10:7 (ESV)

⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house.

Mark 12:14–17 (ESV)

¹⁴ And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone’s opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?” ¹⁵ But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” ¹⁶ And they brought one. And he said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to him, “Caesar’s.” ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they marveled at him.

Love God / Love Neighbor:

Matthew 22:34-40 (ESV)

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ **And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ **And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

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Love God by Keeping Commandments

Deuteronomy – 4 speeches by Moses prior to the children of Israel entering the land of Canaan (1st speech talked about the failures of the first generation)

Chapter 4 – Reminds them of the Statutes, Rules, Commandments (three ways of saying the same thing)

Chapter 5 – Repeats the 10 Commandments for the current generation

Chapter 6 – Love God with ALL your heart, ALL your soul, All your Might

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (ESV)

⁴"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.** ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Chapter 10 – Loving God = doing what God commanded

Deuteronomy 10:12-16 (ESV)

¹²"And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, **to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,** ¹³**and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?** ¹⁴Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. ¹⁵Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. ¹⁶Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.

Chapter 11 – Loving God = doing what God commanded

Deuteronomy 11:1 (ESV)

¹"You shall therefore love the Lord your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always.

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Jesus also equated the keeping of commandments to loving God

John 14:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

John 14:21 (ESV)

²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

John 14:23-24 (ESV)

²³ Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

Someone says "I just want to Love God, I don't want all that Bible stuff." This is not loving God. We can divorce Loving God from doing.

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Leviticus 19:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Romans 13:9-10 (ESV)

⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

James 2:8 (ESV)

⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

John 13:34 (ESV)

³⁴ 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.

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Generic Laws:

John 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 10:13 (ESV)

¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Christ’s Return:

Matthew 24:26 (ESV)

²⁶ So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.

Matthew 25:1–13 (ESV)

¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹² But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 (ESV)

¹ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

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Whole Armor of God:

Ephesians 6:10–20 (ESV)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Desires of the Flesh:

Galatians 5:17–22 (ESV)

¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,