

Lesson 28 – The Book of Romans

My hesitation regarding further teachings in this book stem from going into depth on the gifts of the Spirit given to the Church for the edification of the Church. I have covered them so very often in previous teachings, I am hesitant to cover them again here.

Suffice to say that in **Romans 12** that after Paul teaches us to present ourselves as living sacrifices to the world around us, as well as not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought, He then goes into depth with what the Spirit of God has placed within the Body of believers, with the objective of building up the Saints, preparing each of us to do the work of the ministry.

He outlines the gift ministries which are to be active in each assembly. He emphasis the fact that each member of the body belongs to Him, and that we have need of one another. No one member is more important than another, and we would do well to embrace that understanding.

That includes those who wear robes, or have a title attached to their name because of their education background or whatever. We are all members of the one body which is His.

The result of that is that we should love one another. We should respect one another. Rejoicing together in hope, praying for one another, giving to one another in financial ways as well as other means, and that we should above all strive to be at peace with one another. Don't repay evil with evil, but repay with good.

Let the Lord be your avenger, don't stoop to doing it yourself. He will take care of you and your needs.

Ok, now **Romans 13** begins to deal with our responsibility toward our government. Must we obey a government that is corrupt? How do we as Christians relate to a government that is a representative republic? And do we have a dual citizenship?

We will explore these questions as well as other things such as "free will"

It is my sincere belief that regarding our free will, it is applicable once we are part of His kingdom. By His own will He begat us, and without His calling we would never have considered Him as an option. He started the program, and will complete it in spite of our free will.

Our free will is regarding our condition while on this earth, not our position in Him. Through the exercise of our "free will" we take responsibility for our salvation walks. Rewards or the lack thereof are dependent upon our free will. Ruling and reigning with Him during the Millenium are the result of our free will.

Now we would do well to understand that God has established divine order within the marriage and home relationship. Genesis 2:24. Leaving and cleaving.

There are two rules for happiness within the marriage. The man is the head of the household, but he is to love his wife as Christ loves the church and gave His life for it. Eph 5: 22-23. The two rules are; 1 for respect, the other for unconditional love.

Marriage is the model of intimacy. Remember that Heterosexuals reproduce, homosexuals recruit.

The family unit is the most important segment in society. The responsibility for the oversight of the children belongs to the parents, not the state. The family is where the children learn about relationships and to respect law and order.

When we study about ancient Israel, there were no jails, stealing required restitution – fivefold- and habitual thieves were stoned.

There was no penitentiary or graduate school for criminals. There were cities of refuge. 3 east of the Jordan, 3 west. There were places of asylum for those accidentally killing someone

After the flood, God announced the principles of government. **Genesis 9 56**; *“surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast, I will require it and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother, I will require the life of the man – Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed. For in the image of God He made man.”*

A thousand years later, God reaffirmed the duty of punishing murders with death – **Numbers 35: 31&33**

To claim that it is not Christian to execute murders is to directly deny God’s word in Romans 13.

The current cry of “capital punishment is not Christian” is a lie and rebellion against God’s word.

Also, it must be noted that “one world Government” leads to a Satanic tyranny. It has happened before for sure...

Romans 13, explains how as believers we live by a higher standard. We submit ourselves to those in authority over us, recognizing that there is but one true authority and He will care for us. All those placed in authority over us are placed there by God Himself “for our benefit” and when we resist them, *we do so at our own peril, for as He says in verse 4 that they are there for “ministers by God for our good.”*

Sometimes tough to swallow, but **verse 4** also says: For he (those in authority over us) is God’s minister to us for GOOD. But, if we do evil, this same person becomes God’s minister to correct us, and “an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. *Therefore, you must be subject not only because of wrath, but also for conscience’s sake.*

*Look at **verse 6** – for because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. **Verse 7** Render therefore to all their due taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to who customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another fulfilled the law.* The commandments are summed up in one verse, you and I are to *love your neighbor as yourself.*

Just a further comment here on this issue beloved. We need to recognize that the laws are the results of our efforts. They are not imposed upon us, we write and pass them through our representatives, by the people we place in office. It is our fault if the laws are not what they should be, or if we have elected folks that will not follow them.

May I say the following? Biblical submission is a readiness to obey law and uphold the legal order, not an approval or endorsement of all lawmakers or even all laws absolutely

That fact that Christ has the absolute supremacy over our lives qualifies the absoluteness of human law. John the Baptists preaching is an example of a proper indictment of present governmental authority **Matt 11:11**

That is what Jesus said about John the Baptist. At that moment, John was in prison for publicly indicting the ruling king.

Opposition to a leader’s behavior, public criticism of it, and declaration of moral unfitness for office, is not necessarily inconsistent with a submissive spirit to governing authorities.

We will probably be held accountable for a government, of the people, by the people and for the people. We must assume this position.

Our biggest problem is our **apathy or ignorance.** To those who say, I don’t know and I don’t care.

We need to stay involved beloved. **Proverbs 29:4** says “The king establishes the land by justice, but he who receives bribes overthrows it.” We should act on principle rather than be driven by expediency. **Proverbs 29:12** says: “if a ruler pays attention to lies, all of his servants become wicked.”

A truism for the day is listed in **Ecclesiastes 10:2 – the N.I.V. version** “a wise man’s heart directs him toward the right, but the foolish man’s heart directs him toward the left.”

Elections are not about “political views” they are about character, morality and about keeping an oath before God Himself.

Our duty is to vote and stand for what is right.

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