

Romans Chapter 13

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Chapter 13. We may find that this is one of the more complicated chapters for us in the Bible. Here Paul states we are to obey the earthly or civil authority. Even to the point that these authorities are established of God. Why then did Jesus resist? Why did the Apostles resist? We find that even Paul resisted and eventually was killed by the Authority that he stated God established. This chapter is short yet it requires patients.

Verses 1-5: There is the law of men and the Word of God. The Word compels us to obey the Laws of men. But sometimes men break their own laws in enforcing them upon other men. Peter said: **Act 5: 29;** "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men." In Peter's case, the civil authority was influenced by religious leaders to rally the crowds and pressure the governors. But Peter and company did not violate the law. Nor offered any physical resistance to the authority. Jesus offered no physical resistance, but He resisted those in spirit and will. Jesus and Peter were told to stop doing Good. Paul states here that the authorities that God establishes will not be against doing good. But they both suffered penalties for doing good. Peter was jailed, but Jesus was executed.

Verses 6-7: Men's law varies from place to place. What some states allow; other states do not. One cannot claim innocence in North Carolina from what is permitted in New York. My taxes are higher in North Carolina than what I would pay in Nevada. But I will be subject to fines if I pay my Taxes in North Carolina based on Nevada law. Therefore, what the law states where you are is what you must obey.

Verses 8-10: Owe no man anything, does not mean we can't obtain credit. It means that we should not fall short on doing what God called us to do. God has promised when we live according to His Word, Will, and Way, we will be blessed to the point that we will become the lender not the borrower. Many times, we do not count the cost (monetary) of sin. However, financial gain is not something that is to be pursued, but something realized as a result of righteous living.

Verses 11-14: Paul calls out for sincere, sober, and spiritual righteous thinking in his day.. For evil was active in its move against God and His people. Even more so today. We must be aware of our spiritual situation. We are in the Last and evil days. Nothing is hidden from God. What one may think he is getting away with, is being recorded in God's record book. So, the only way out is to submit and obey God. And as so many others have, we will find it is the best way.