

ROMANS
2026
Sep 20th, 2026

VIII. Living Out the Truth of the Gospel

Rom 12:3-15:13

Part 3: Rom 13:1-7 - "Render to Caesar, Render to God" - Key verse: 13:1

1. Let everyone be subject to the governing ("above") authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established ("instituted, appointed"). (1 Pet 2:13-17)

a. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

- Consequently, whoever rebels (or "resists, rebels") against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.
- For rulers hold no ("are not a") terror for those who do right ("to good works"), but for those who do wrong ("to evil").

b. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority?

- Then do what is right ("good/beneficial/honorable") and you will be commended (from him).
- For the one in authority is God's servant for your good.
- But if you do wrong (or, "evil, morally bad"), be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason ("in vain").
 - * They are God's servants, agents of wrath ("an avenger/punisher") to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. (As opposed to self avenging - Prv 20:22; Rom 12:19; 1 Pet 3:9)
 - * Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment ("wrath") but also as a matter of conscience.

2. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time ("continually attend") to governing.

a. Give to everyone what you owe (what's due) them:

- If you owe taxes, pay taxes; (Deut 14:23-29; Deut 26:12-13, Ams 4:4, Mal 3:6-12; Mtt 22:15-22; Mrk 12:13-17; Lke 20:20-26)
- If revenue, then revenue; (taxes on goods)
- If respect, then respect;
- If honor, then honor.

b. What about those in authority who do wrong? (Mtt 23:1-12)

- What about those who command us contrary to God's word? (1 Kng 18:2b-4; Dan 3:1-30; Dan 6:1-28; Act 4:13-22; 5:27-32). Put God 1st and accept the consequences.
 - * Note that Obadiah, Daniel's three friends, Daniel himself and the apostles were all determined to obey God and if need be, pay the price. If He chose to deliver them or chose them to bear witness in danger or death they would trust Him.
 - * How are we to speak to and about those God has placed over us? (Exd 22:28/ Act 23:1-5; Prv 24:21; 1 Pet 2:13-17)

If you think about it, starting in chapter 12:1 and following we are exhorted to trust God with our lives. And, in view of His mercy/grace toward us, to seek Him and allow Him to transform us; to trust in His sovereignty and justice. To take matters into our own hands is to usurp His rightful place as Judge.