

Biblical Text ESV: Romans Chapter 13	Expository Teaching
<p>Submission to the Authorities</p> <p>13 Let 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. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 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, 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. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. 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.</p> <p>Fulfilling the Law Through Love</p> <p>⁸Owe 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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>¹“Subject” = military concept (be <i>subordinated</i>); the authorities have been “ordained” by God. The Authorities that exist that confront ME. Remarkable, and yet 100% true. We walk by faith. Middendorf quotes, “It is only a slight exaggeration to say that the history of the interpretation of Rom. 13:1-7 is the history of attempts to avoid what seems to be its plain reading.” (1297)</p> <p>²This does not preclude Acts 5:40-41. Nevertheless, a divine ordering exists.</p> <p>³Existing authorities are to restrain evil. Some of course do not but promote it. As result, we will suffer even when we do good, but the in general when we are subordinate we may know 1 Timothy 2:2.</p> <p>⁴God’s servant, whether they know it or not! Think of King Cyrus of Persia. Stunning truth: Isaiah 44:28 Cyrus as God’s “shepherd,” and Isaiah 45:1 Cyrus as God’s anointed.</p> <p>⁵ Franzmann: “The eye of faith sees in the authorities the hand of God...”. (233)</p> <p>⁶“Ministers” = priestly term; mediators for God in the civil realm. Also, see Jesus’ teaching at Matthew 22:17-21.</p> <p>⁷ This is part of our “spiritual worship” of 12:1. We aren’t just going through the motions, but we obey with “respect” and “honor.” “Respect” contains good “fear” as in, “We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.” “Honor” goes beyond feeling. It is an act of faith recognizing God’s ordering. St. Paul could still write all of this in spite of his own bad experience (e.g. Acts 16:22-38).</p> <p>⁸It is our faith that drives us to honor the authorities, but the Christian is driven by an even greater impulse: to love. This goes beyond obedience. Governmental authorities are also our neighbors.</p>

is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

⁹⁻¹⁰ 613 Laws in the O.T. (if the counting of Maimonides is correct) = is summarized in 10 (Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5) = these are further summarized by Jesus (**Matthew 22:37-40**) = and these are further summarized here at Romans 13:9 & 10. (love your neighbor...and who is your neighbor?) Luther: "Therefore I do not want to be compelled to be subject to secular princes and lords; but I will be subject to them of my own accord, not because they command me but to render a service to my neighbor." (LW 30, 79)

¹¹⁻¹³ Triadic structure: "three **statements of hope** (salvation is nearer, the night is far gone, the day is at hand), three **exhortations of hope** (to cast off the works of darkness, to put on the armor of light, to conduct oneself becomingly as in the day), and **three pairs of contrast to becoming conduct [the life of hope?]** (not reveling and drunkenness, not debauchery and licentiousness, not quarreling and jealousy)." (Franzmann, 238)

¹⁴ **We must return to WHEN we were clothed in Christ -- Gal. 3:27 -- which is to say we return to the drowning of the flesh/old man at Holy Baptism. Yes, the flesh is always there in us, but in Christ "we speak a constant no to the importunities of the flesh."** (Franzmann, 240)