

Romans 13:1-14  
“*Taboo Topics*”

~ INTRO. ~

WE ‘VE BEEN EXPLORING...

- The big idea of: *Living like a Christian.*

WE’VE COVERED...

- 1) Living **INSIDE** the family of faith (Rom. 12:9-16).
- 2) Living **OUTSIDE** the family of faith (Rom. 12:17-21).

AND TODAY... WE’RE GOING TO COVER...

- Some *Taboo Topics* (Rom 13).

~ STUDY ~

NOW... (Chp. #13) BEGINS...

- By addressing the hardest thing...
  - We’ll ever have to do – surrendering control to another.

YET...

- That’s the first step for everyone that comes to Christ.
  - We’re to be subject OR submit ... ourselves to God’s will.

**IDEA #1 – SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

SCRIPTURE PROVIDES...

- God given institutions we are to be subject to:
  - 1) Government institutions (Rom. 13:1).
  - 2) Family structure (Col. 3:18-20).
  - 3) Church leaders (Heb. 13:17).

THE **TOPIC** AT HAND... IS BEING SUBMISSIVE...

- And the **application** is to – *governing authorities* (v.1).

HERE’S A HANDFUL OF TRUTHS...

- We should retain.

- #1)** Two responsibilities: Matt 22:17-21 (NKJV)
- a) Fulfill your obligation to the Government;

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b) Fulfill your obligation to God.

**KEY LESSON:**

- If the two ever collide...
  - We yield to the highest-order... by submitting to God.

(Dan. 3:16-18) NKJV

- Shows that we serve & submit to government practices...
  - Until they violate God’s principles.
- (Acts 5:29)...
  - “*we ought to obey God rather than men*”

**WHY?**

1 Kings 10:9b (NLT)

*“Because of the LORD’s eternal love for Israel, He has made you king so you can rule with justice and righteousness.”*

**#2) GOD’S INTENT...**

- For those with authority – rule with justice & righteousness.

1 Peter 2:13-17 (NLT)

- The **motivation** for submitting to authorities is to **honor God**.

**#3) Governing authorities should punish wrong doers.**

- God assigned **capital punishment** to man in (Gen. 9:6) NLT.

**#4) The church can avoid unnecessary *wrath*...**

- AND avoid a *guilty conscience* by submitting to the government.
  - Because “... *he is God’s minister to us for good.*” (v.4).

**#5) The tax man is also God’s *minister* to us.**

- So pay your taxes!
  - (v.7) NKJV...
    - *Taxes* = Federal & State
    - *Customs* = Sales tax
    - *Fear* = Respect

- *Honor* = Honor & submission

(vv.1-7) Is focused on our *Social Responsibilities* as followers of Christ.

## **IDEA #2 – MORAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

OK...

- Catch the flow as we transition topics...
  - From government institutions...
    - To people made in the image of God.

LOVE...

- Is how we relate to ALL people.
  - We’re NOT to be in default to the government...
    - And we’re NOT to be negligent in...
      - Moral responsibilities!

## **LOVE PROMOTES – LOVE PREVENTS**

Compassion	Harshness
Forgiveness	Retaliation
Generosity	Selfishness

## **IDEA #3 – SPIRITUAL URGENCY**

(v.11) *awake out of sleep* = moral carelessness.

(v.13) IS A SUMMARY OF SIN’S...

- That characterize people who live...
  - As though Christ is NOT returning.

There are six items OR three pairs:

- 1) Wild parties & drunkenness;
- 2) Sexual promiscuity & immoral living;
- 3) Quarreling & jealousy.

PAUL’S TEACHING THE CHURCH...

- That these behaviors damage the whole person.

## Romans 13:1-14

### “Taboo Topics”

- Intoxicants lead to a loss of self-control;
- Unrestrained sex leads to a loss of purity;
- Relational hostility leads to a loss of unity.

### LET’S...

- Talk about sexuality for a moment...
  - Because it’s a big deal.

A common N.T. word is “*sexual immorality*” is (por-ni-ah)

- We get our English word pornography from it.
  - And it’s used for all things sexual outside of marriage.
    - (It carries the idea of “*selling off*.”)

(1 Peter 2:11) NLT

### WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Because... *sexual immorality* is a silent killer (it destroys the soul).

### HERE’S THE IMPACT:

- It renders a person unfit to enter God’s presence.
  - (Gal. 5:19) *uncleanness*...
    - Means: *Defiled, foul, ceremonially unfit*.

### CHRISTIAN’S...

- Living in **unrepentant** *sexual immorality*...
  - Cannot come into the presence of God.
    - So this person remains defiled.

### IT LOOKS LIKE THIS: <sup>1</sup>

- 1) It’s not wrong to have sex, if we love each other.
- 2) Times have changed, and sex before marriage is not considered sin.
- 3) We’re married in God’s eyes. He knows we’re going to get married.

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<sup>1</sup> Common objections to God’s commands against sexual immorality: <https://www.gotquestions.org/sexual-immorality.html>

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- 4) I still have a good relationship with God because He understands my situation.

**~ IN CLOSING ~**

WE'RE LEARNING...

- To stay away from practices that dull spiritual life.

GOD WANTS TO RESTORE PEOPLE...

**~ COMMUNION ~**

(1 Cor. 11:23-29)