

SAINTS SHOULD BE OBLIGATED

Romans 13

**As believers we have duties that are often difficult
but contribute to our discipleship**

I. OUR GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS (1-7)

A. THE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT (1a)

1. Who: Every person ... no exceptions for any reason
2. What: Habitually and voluntarily putting yourself under the government's authority

B. THIS SUBMISSION SUPPORTED (1b-5)

- Here are some reasons we should submit ...
- 1. Because God appointed governing authorities to their posts (1b-2)
 - If you resist them, you stand in permanent antagonism to the ordinance of God and bring deserved judgment upon yourself (v. 2)
- 2. Because God intended government to maintain civil order (3-4)
 - a. Evil people will fear government's wrath, whereas good people will be praised by government (3-4)
 - b. The power to punish is inherent in government - See Gen. 9:6 and Acts 12:2
 - c. The government can be benevolent (good) by aiding believers and churches
 - d. Any government is better than anarchy
- 3. Because God wants believers to maintain a clear conscience (5)
 - If you sin against your conscience, you sin against the truth you know - See James 4:17

C. THIS SUBMISSION PRACTICED (6-7)

1. Financially (6-7a)
 - a. Note Christ's example in Matt. 17:24-27
 - b. Consider Christ's instruction in Matt. 22:17-22
2. Respectfully (7b) > Honor to whom honor
 - a. To honor is to carefully regard their value though not necessarily their virtue
 - b. Exp: Paul with Agrippa in Acts 26:1-3

II. OUR NEIGHBOR OBLIGATIONS (8-14)

A. LOVE ONE ANOTHER (8-10)

1. The Duty (8)
 - a. You owe this love > This is a constant debt that is never fully satisfied
 - b. See a similar command in I John 4:20-21
 - c. Consider examples in Luke 10:25-37 and Acts 9:26-28
 - d. When done, you are completely compliant with the Law - See v. 10b also

Over please >

2. The Goal (9)

- a. Love them as yourself
- b. This does not come naturally, hence the commands ... Do not _____

3. The Objective (10a)

- a. Doing no wrong to your neighbor > The idea can include doing no harm or evil to them
- b. See Romans 12:14, 17, 19-20 and Matt. 5:43-48
- c. Note Paul's example of this in Acts 23:1-5

B. LIVE AS A LIGHT-BEARER (11-14)

1. Be Motivated (11)

- Do this "loving others" obligation knowing that time is limited

2. Be Protected (12)

- a. Putting away the deeds of darkness
- b. Putting on the armor of light - See Eph. 6:10-18 and I Thess. 5:7-8

3. Be Devoted (13-14)

- a. Consideration: Our discipline will demonstrate our devotion to God
- b. Questions: Are we behaving properly and forsaking the flesh?
- c. Conclusion: Don't make provision for premeditated sin!

4. Be Mindful

- The way we live (11-14) will affect the way we love (8-10)

CONCLUSION: We can develop our Christianity by dutifully and delightfully keeping God's obligations.