

## **LESSON 27: ROMANS 13:1-14**

### **The Church and the State**

1. What reasons does Paul give for submitting to the governing authorities (v. 1)? What is Paul's view of those who exercise this authority? How can it be that God would “appoint” unrighteous people to exercise authority over God’s people (v. 2)?
2. What is the function of government, and what is Paul’s point in verses 3-4? Some have argued that in these verses Paul is writing about the ideal function of rulers, not what they do in reality. What is your position? Defend your answer.
3. Do you think it is ever appropriate to not submit to the governing authorities? What about the situation of a Christian living under the rule of a Nero, Hitler, or Stalin? What do you think Paul means when he raises the matter of being subject to the civil authority “also for the sake of conscience” (v. 5)?
4. How did the Jesus and the apostles exhibit submission to the governing authorities? (See John 18:33-38; Acts 4:1-22; 5:17-42; 16:35-40; 25:6-13; and 28:17-20.) Why wasn’t the apostles’ disobedience considered as rebellion against God's established authority?
5. Are there any situations where Christians should not pay taxes (v. 6)?
6. How can a Christian best impact government to the glory of God (v. 7)?
7. What light do these passages cast on Paul’s convictions about the sovereignty of God?

## **Living in the Light**

1. What is appropriate behavior for Christians toward others?
  
2. How does love fulfill the laws listed in verse 9? What actions communicate love?
  
3. How does the Christian view of time differ from the world's? Why is watchfulness important for the Christian?
  
4. In what sense has our complete salvation in Christ not yet come?
  
5. What is the meaning of the commands in verse 12-14? What does the negative and positive of each command say about the victorious Christian life?
  
6. Why is no difference made between the sins described in verse 13?
  
7. How does verse 14 summarize the way in which a Christian's responsibilities should be fulfilled to government (vv. 1-7), to neighbors (vv. 8-10), and to God (vv. 11-13)?