

Session #49: “THE ORDINANCE OF GOD”—Romans 13:1-5

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “Site Map” Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Romans by Pastor Chuck Smith and David Hocking.

Questions:

- What sin does the Bible teach that is in direct opposition to submission.
- Is there any relationship between submission and humility?
- As a believer, do you see the need for submitting to authority?
- What were the dates of the Roman Empire?
- Are believers to submit to other believers only or all people?
- Does the Bible teach of submission of all women to all men?
- What is God’s purpose for human authority? (We’ll discuss four reasons)

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 1:18-8:39

THE PROBLEMS OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 9:1-11:36

THE PRACTICES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 12:1-15:33

1A. AS TO LIVING FOR THE LORD - 12:1-8

2A. AS TO THE LOVE OF THE LORD - 12:9-21

- 3A. AS TO THE LAW OF GOD - 13:1-14

➤ 1B. Our SUBJECTION (To Submit) to the law - 13:1-5

Rom 13:1a Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities.

1C. Our Responsibility

“*Let every soul be subject unto the governing authorities*” – v. 1a = Greek: *hypotasso* - means “to arrange under” - deals with rank (military term) This is opposite of rebelling against authority! Used 49 times - such as Titus 3:1 and 1 Peter 2:13-16 - used of Jesus Christ in 1 Cor. 15:28 - In a negative way, it is used of the carnal mind (Rom. 8:7) that is “*not subject to the law of God*” - also, it is used in Rom. 10:3 for those who “*have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God*”

1D. Used of servants to masters - Tit. 2:9-10; (Beautifies the opportunity to witness) 1 Peter 2:18-21

2D. Used of young to old – 1 Peter 5:5

3D. Used of angels to Christ - 1 Pet. 3:22

4D. Used of wives to husbands - Eph. 5:22; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:5; 1 Peter 3:1, 5

5D. Used of believers to one another - Eph. 5:21 (evidence of being Spirit filled)

6D. Used of believers to God - James 4:10.

Rom 13:1b For there is no authority (power) except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

2C. The Reasons for this subjection to authority - 1b-5 (Three reasons are being given here)

1D. Because of the command of God - 1b

2D. Because of the consequences we face if we don’t submit - 2-4

3D. Because of our conscience before God – 5

1D. Because of the command of God - 1b - “*For there is no authority* (Greek: *exousia* - authority) *except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God*” The term “higher powers” is used in NIV/NASB - “governing authorities” - They also translate the word “ordained” as “established”- 1 Peter 2:13-16 calls it “*the will of God*” - Psalms 62:11 says “*God has spoken once; twice I have heard this; that power belongs to God*”

NOTE: What is God's purpose for human authority?

(1) To protect human life - Gen. 9:5-6; Ex. 20:13; 19:11-13

(2) To protect personal & property rights - Ex. 20:14-17

(3) To handle disputes between people over their rights - Deut. 1:12-17; 16:18-20; 17:8-13; 19:15-21; Mt. 20:1-15

(4) To punish those who do evil - Deut. 17:2-7; Rom. 13:4 - Donald Grey Barnhouse in the 4th volume of his commentary of Romans on page 100 wrote: "We strongly uphold the principle of separation of church and state, but we do not endorse the separation of God and the state. God is Lord of the state as much as He is Lord of the church, but His sovereignty over the state is not exercised through religious leaders." Civil disobedience is only permissible for the believer when the human authority demands that the believer violates the known law of God - Acts 5:28-29

Rom 13:2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

Rom 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

Rom 13:4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

2D. Because of the consequences we face if we don't submit - 2-4 - cf. 1Timothy 1:9-10

Rom 13:5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

3D. Because of our conscience before God – 5 - The Greek word *suneidesis* is used 32 times in the NT - 18 of those usages refer to an awareness of what is right and wrong (such as example in John 8:9). The other 14 times use adjectives with the word, such as

1E. A weak conscience - 1 Cor. 8:10

2E. A seared conscience - 1 Tim. 4:1-2

3E. A defiled conscience - Tit. 1:15-16

4E. An evil conscience - Heb. 10:19-22

5E. A good conscience - 1 Tim. 1:5-7

6E. A pure conscience - 1 Tim. 3:8-9

Unbelievers have a conscience according to Romans 2:14-15 which causes them to do what is in God's law. The conscience of the believer is critical in telling the truth - (Romans 9:1-2) - Paul says "my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit." The writer of Hebrews 13:18 says "Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience in all things willing to live honestly." - In the context of Romans 13:5, the conscience submits to authority because it knows that is the right thing to do.

Hebrews 3:7-11; James 4:6-10; Titus 3:1-7