

Introduction:

- 13:1-7 "*Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.*" (Romans 13:1, NLT)
 - In this section we find a very well organized segment about a single topic, that being submission to governing authorities.
 - So the question becomes, "Why this? and, Why here?" In reality, it seems to interrupt what Paul has been teaching on love and to give focus to something that is "passing away." (Ro 13:11 and 12:2)
- I believe that Paul inserts this section here to avoid extremism that some might take in the church to his word, "*Do not be conformed to the patterns of this world...*" We are part of a new kingdom and are subject to king Jesus. After all another Roman city, Corinth really went 'overboard' and needed correction. Paul seems to be trying to head this off with this section.
- Also we can keep in mind, from our background study, Rome had excommunicated all Jews at one time. Do you think there might have been some insubordination going on?
- His basic premise is: Submit to rulers because: one, rulers are appointed by God and two they reward good and punish evil.

I. To the Point!

- A. Submit to governing authorities.
 1. There is a tension in the New Testament between the pilgrim principle ("don't be conformed to this world") and the indigenous principle ("become all things to all men" (1 Cor 9:22).
 - a) an even bigger question comes from this. Do we submit to wicked rulers? Did God actually put them in position? The answer is yes. God did raise up these wicked rulers it is a common finding in the OT. (1 Kings 12:15; Jer 27:6) ***Jn 19:10 Jesus tells Pilate his authority was given him by God.
 2. Everyone must do this. Yes, Paul is writing to a Christian audience but it does not mean that unbelievers are excluded in his statement. It appears to be an all inclusive statement.
 3. Exousia - authority. As we have noted earlier in our study of Romans this word means both power and the authority to use it. The ones who exercise this authority are 'governing' or those who hold position over.
 4. "To submit" is to recognize one's subordinate place in a hierarchy, to acknowledge as a general rule that certain people or institutions have "authority" over us. Moo, D. J. (1996). [The Epistle to the Romans](#) (p. 797). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. We are to submit out of reverence to God not out of reverence to a ruler. 1 Peter 2:13 "be subject for the Lords sake to every human institution." Jesus has been given all authority in heaven and in the earth... Therefore speed limits do matter. Heaven is watching. Submission to authority is big to the apostle Paul:
 - a) Paul also calls us to submit to spiritual leaders 1 Cor 16:16
 - b) To one another Eph 5:12
 - c) Slaves to masters Titus 2:9
 - d) Wives to husbands Eph 5:24
- B. The reason we submit is that God holds all authority. This is clear OT and Jewish teaching.
 1. To rebel against authority is to rebel against God.
 2. Government brings restraint against evil.

3. Government punishes evil and rewards good
4. Above civil government is moral law. You do not want your heart to condemn you. vs 5.

II. The Authorities Are God's Servants vs 4

- A. Paul writes as one who expects his letter to be read.
 1. By government officials as well as by the church.
 2. To communicate that their, government/authority is based on God's moral law.
 3. He is more concerned with our humility and self-denial and trust in Christ, than he is about our civil liberties.
- B. Not being conformed to this world does not mean renouncing civil governments
 1. In fact vs 6 we do these things to keep a clear conscience.
 2. These things, like pay taxes, drive the speed limit, etc. because that is what a good citizen of heaven does while living in this life.
- C. If they are God's servants then it only makes sense that we treat them with:
 1. Respect - *phobos*, reverence.
 2. Honor - τιμη, honor. Appraisal, dignity, worth, recognition.

III. Back to Love

- A. Owe nothing except to love each other.
 1. vs 10 - Love fulfills the requirements of the law.
- B. This is critical knowing that the time is short. vs. 11
 1. Wake up
 2. Remove dark deeds and put on the armor of light. vs. 12
 3. Clothe yourself with the Presence of the Lord Jesus Christ! vs 14
 4. This section sounds like what we have studied earlier.