

“SUMMER OF ROMANS” QUESTIONS

ROMANS 13

To prepare for CCP’s weekly Bible study, read the following passages and think through the questions below.

ESV Romans 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

- 1) The KJV describes “authorities that exist” as “the powers that be”. Who are these authorities and powers in political government?**

- 2) This passage describes judgment as “terror and fear inducing judgment”. What do you think this means? What “resistances” incur this kind of judgment from the government?**

- 3) “Rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad.” (vs 3) Do you think this statement is *rarely, sometimes, usually, or always* true? How do you think Paul meant it?**

- 4) What kind of respect do we owe our civic leaders? What level of allegiance or obedience? When do you think it is okay to resist?

- 5) How are governmental leaders “servants of God”? Using instances from the Bible, how can leaders “serve God” for good or for bad?**

5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. 6 For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. 8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

- 6) Verse 5 refers to us as “in subjection” to authorities. How does our political system differ from the subjection the Jews experienced from the Romans?**

- 7) Why would Jews (or others) be tempted to not pay taxes or revenue?

8) What people do we owe taxes or revenue to? Who do we owe honor or respect?

9) Why do you think “owing love” is the exception? What does it mean to you “to owe love to one another”?

*9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

10) This section expands on the thought from verse 9 that, “the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.” What commandments does Paul use to prove that love covers the law? Why do you think he chose these?

11) Looking at verse 10, which do you think is a higher calling – “Doing no wrong” or “Fulfilling the law” in how you treat your neighbor? Why?

11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

12) In this summary statement, Paul uses the language of night/day and asleep/awake. What do you think Paul is talking about in verse 12, when he says, “the day is at hand?”

13) We are told to put on 2 things, “the Lord Jesus Christ” and “the armor of light”? How do you think these two things relate?

14) What do the sins that Paul pointed to in verse 13 have in common?

15) What does it mean to make “a provision for the flesh”? How can Christians avoid doing this?