

ROMANS 13

CIVIL GOVERNMENT: Do Christians have a duty to established civil govt?

At time Paul wrote, Roman Govt. controlled most of world. Heathen usually associated Christians with Jews, and Jews had been noted for their opposition to Roman Govt.

Paul wanted all to know that Christians were not opposed to govt. as such.

Some believed that since Christ ^{had} came to establish his kingdom, no ~~other~~ human govt. had right to exist.

Paul corrected this false doctrine by showing that God has appointed human govts. for the welfare of man.

Whoever attempts to break down human govt. is fighting against the ordinance of God. We are to be loyal to govt. & support it, submit to it.

Has God ordained any particular form of government?

V 1- Every soul is to be subject to what? WHY? These "powers" donot refer to church rulers. These powers are ordained of whom?

When men refuse to be governed by God, they must be governed by some power, & God ordains other govts. to maintain peace & order. So all power, even of Rome, was of God. As a class, rulers are a blessing to mankind. There have always been exceptions, Nero, Hitler, Stalin, but does not mean that all govt. is evil.

Christians individually are forbidden to take vengeance, but God ordains govts. to take vengeance on wrongdoers.

Does this mean God always approves of all rulers do? Exceptions? Acts 4:19, 5:29. Rom. 12:19- One way in which God takes his vengeance.

V 3- In time of Nero's persecutions of Christians, how could it be said that he was not a terror to good works? The afflictions were for their own good, eternal welfare. God permits only so much affliction to come upon his children as will promote their true good. *Fear not those who harm body*

V 4- MINISTER OF GOD TO THEM FOR GOOD- even the vile Nero, his persecutions purified the church, purged out unworthy, proved the true, worked spiritual good even in midst of physical distress.

BEARETH NOT THE SWORD IN VAIN- used for captial punishment, used to execute laws. Gen. 9:5,6.

See 1 Peter 2:13,14. *Sent for punishment of evil doers.*

WHAT TWO REASON GIVEN FOR BEING IN SUBJECT*
ION? Fear of punishment, duty to God.

V 6- Tribute and custom- taxes. Christ born when his mother went to be taxed. Many who would be honest in other things, but feel it is no sin to cheat govt. It cannot operate unless supported by people.

V 8- OWE NO MAN ANYTHING- Does this forbid buying on credit? See Psalms 37:21. SAVE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER- One debt we can never pay off and forget about.

LOVE TO NEIGHBOR FULFILLS LAW- will do no evil to neighbor, but will do what law of God says to do. THE GOLDEN RULE.

Part of ten commandments that have to do with actions toward man are quoted. Keeping of these shows love toward man. Love is fulfilling of law, whether toward God or man.

LOVE WORKETH NO ILL TO NEIGHBOR- Would prevent fraud & dishonesty, silence slanderer, false witness. Stop the seducer, adulterer

● Stop gambling, the gambler desires the property or possession of neighbor without due compensation, thus works ill toward him. Stop lotteries - One desires things to be gained at expense & loss of others.

● Stop employments which work ill toward others. Think of nothing of which this is more true than selling intoxicating beverages. Can do him no good at all, rather the result is to deprive him of property, health, peace of mind, reputation, domestic peace. Love to neighbor would lead one to abandon such employment. (See Hab. 2:15)

Charity

V 11- STATES ANOTHER REASON, BESIDE LOVE, FOR DOING GOOD TO NEIGHBOR: We are nearer to eternity.

"Awake out of sleep" denotes rousing up from state of inaction to one of strenuous effort.

NOW IS SALVATION NEARER- Not salvation from sin, but completion of salvation which we shall have when Lord shall come. 1 Pet 1:5.

Paul is not saying that coming of Lord is eminent, but eternity nearer, death nearer. Some here today will not be here next year.

"Becoming dress" does something
V 13- WALK BECOMINGLY- Live life of purity & holiness, not after flesh. Avoid every word or action remotely tending to evil. 1 Thess. 5:22.

REVELLING- Translated dancing. *companion*
DrunkenNESS- Associated with dancing-*vice*
Always go together- Article in paper about dances at Lexix Armory, Teen Town

and beer cans, civic clubs etc. ^{dances} ^{drinking}
CHAMBERING- Downright adultery and fornica-
tion meant- Lascivious (tending to excite
lewd or wandering thoughts or emotions)
words, books, songs, gestures, dances,
anything which lead away from chastity or
modesty. → 1 Pet 4:3, 4

V 14- PUT ON LORD JESUS CHRIST- Had already
put him on in baptism, now put him on in
feeling, actions, . Col. 2:6,7. There is
spiritual life in the new convert, but it
must be fed, nourished, trained to full
growth.

MAKE NOT PROVISION FOR FLESH- not everyday
needs, but lusts of indulgence.