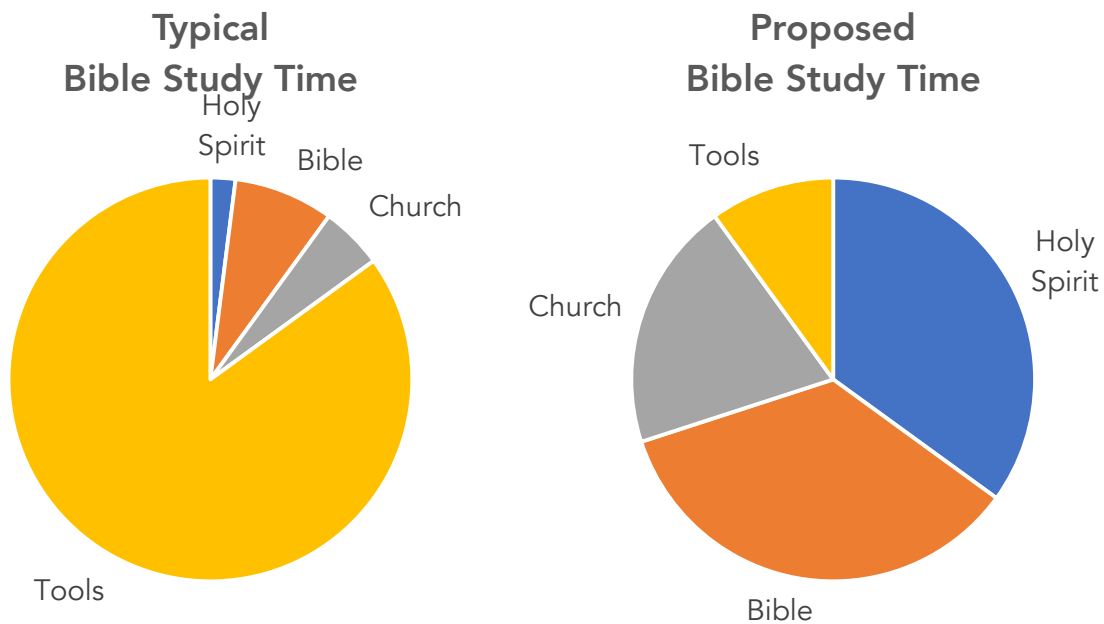


Romans

Submission to the Authorities ([Romans 13:1-7](#))

Introduction

A gentle review: **Did we do this?** Spend more time with God and His Word than with anyone and anything else.



Our approach each week will be REAP (read, explain, apply, personalize).

Here's our outline of the book of [Romans](#) (summarized from the ESV's outline):

- ✓ Paul's Introduction & Righteousness Introduced ([1:1-17](#)) (three weeks)
- ✓ Righteous Wrath ([1:18-3:20](#)) (six weeks)
- ✓ Saving Righteousness ([3:21-4:25](#)) (three weeks)
- ✓ Righteous Freedom ([5:1-8:39](#)) (11 weeks)
- ✓ Righteousness → Jews ([9:1-11:36](#)) (eight weeks)
- 6. Righteous Living ([12:1-15:13](#)) (September to October) (nine weeks)
- 7. Paul's Closing ([15:14-16:23](#)) (November to early December) (five weeks)
- 8. Righteousness Summarized ([16:25-27](#)) (December & wrap up) (two weeks)

Today's text ([Romans 13:1-7](#)) is the fourth part of this major section.

A Living Sacrifice (12:1-2)

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Gifts of Grace (12:3-8)

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Marks of the True Christian

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Read: Submission to the Authorities (13:1-7)

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. **5** Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. **6** For because of this 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.

Explain: Submission to the Authorities (13:1-7)

Bible study is asking and answering questions about the text. Let's ask some questions.

Are there any literary/structural observations?

No, but a couple of things to be aware of to put this passage in context: the government Paul was under during his writing of Romans and the totality of Scripture.

- This is not the Bible's full teaching on this concept—additional passages add subjection to government must not interfere with God's laws (as we are subjects of a heavenly kingdom first) and there are many examples of civil disobedience
- There is no distinction made between a good government and a bad government—at this time, the 'government' was the emperor Nero (one of the most evil men to ever rule), but Paul's primary concern in this passage is encouraging the readers to do good inside a good government (evil governments are discussed elsewhere in Scripture)

What do the words mean?

1 Let every person be subject [hypotasso; present middle **imperative**; subordinate, obey, be under obedience, put under, subdue under, make subject, put in subjection to, submit self to; same word used in **Romans 8:7, 20** (twice); **10:3**] to the governing [present active participle; to hold oneself above, excel, superior, superiority, better, excellency, higher, pass, supreme] **authorities** [authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength; same word used in **Romans 9:21**]. **For there is** [present middle indicative] **no authority** [authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength; same word used in **Romans 9:21**; earlier in **Romans 13:1**; note: there are a variety of ways to translate these two words, but they all (especially when the context of the paragraph is included) end up in this same governmental space] **except from God, and those that exist** [present middle participle] **have been** [present middle indicative] **instituted** [tasso; perfect passive (Robertson) participle; to **arrange** in an orderly manner, to assign or

dispose to a certain position, addict, appoint, determine, ordain, set] **by God.** **2** **Therefore whoever resists** [present middle participle; range oneself against, oppose, oppose themselves, resist] **the authorities** [authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength; same word used in **Romans 9:21; 13:1** (twice)] **resists** [perfect active indicative; resist, stand against, oppose, withstand; same word used in **Romans 9:19**] **what God has appointed** [arrangement, institution, instrumentality], **and those who resist** [perfect active participle; resist, stand against, oppose, withstand; same word used in **Romans 9:19**, earlier in **Romans 13:2**] **will incur** [future middle (Robertson) indicative] **judgment** [avenge, condemned, condemnation, damnation, go to law, judgment; same word used in **Romans 2:2, 3; 3:8; 5:16; 11:33**]. **3 For rulers** [first, chief, ruler, magistrate, prince] **are** [present middle indicative] **not a terror** [*phobos*; fear, alarm, fright, terror; same word used in **Romans 3:18; 8:15**] **to good** [good, beneficial] **conduct** [works, toil, labor], **but to bad** [worthless, depraved, bad, evil, harm, ill, noisome, wicked; same word used in **Romans 1:30; 2:9; 3:8; 7:19, 21; 12:17** (twice), **21** (twice)]. **Would** [present active indicative] **you have no fear** [present middle infinitive] **of the one who is in authority** [authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength; same word used in **Romans 9:21; 13:1** (twice), **2**] **? Then do** [present active imperative] **what is good** [good, beneficial], **and you will receive** [present active indicative] **his approval** [laudation, commendable thing, praise; same word used in **Romans 2:29**], **4 for he is** [present middle indicative] **God's servant** [*diakonos*; to run errands, attendant, waiter, **deacon**, deaconess, minister, servant] **for your good** [good, beneficial]. **But if you do** [present active subjunctive] **wrong** [worthless, depraved, bad, evil, harm, ill, noisome, wicked; same word used in **Romans 1:30; 2:9; 3:8; 7:19, 21; 12:17** (twice), **21** (twice); **13:3**], **be afraid** [*phobeo*; present middle imperative; to frighten, be alarmed, be in awe of, revere, be sore afraid, fear exceedingly, reverence; same word used in **Romans 11:20**], **for he does not bear** [present active indicative; to have a burden, to wear as clothing or a constant accompaniment, bear, wear] **the sword** [knife, dirk, war, judicial punishment, sword; same word used in **Romans 8:35**] **in vain** [idly, without reason, without effect, without a cause, in vain]. **For he is** [present middle indicative] **the servant** [*diakonos*; to run errands, attendant, waiter, deacon, deaconess, minister, servant; same word used earlier in **Romans 13:4**] **of God, an avenger** [carrying justice out, punisher, a revenger] **who carries out God's wrath** [desire, violent passion, abhorrence, punishment, anger, indignation, vengeance, wrath; same word used in **Romans 1:18; 2:5, 8; 4:15; 5:9; 9:22; 12:19**] **on the wrongdoer** [note: this English word combines a Greek verb and a Greek adjective; the verb: present active participle; perform repeatedly, habitually, execute, accomplish, collect, fare, commit, deeds, do, exact, keep, require, use arts; same word used in **Romans 1:32; 2:1, 2, 3, 25; 7:15, 19; 9:11**; the adjective: worthless, depraved, bad, evil, harm, ill, noisome, wicked; same word used in **Romans 1:30; 2:9; 3:8; 7:19, 21; 12:17** (twice), **21** (twice); **13:3**, earlier in **13:4**]. **5**

Therefore one must be [constraint, distress, must needs, of necessity, needful] **in subjection** [*hypotasso*; present middle infinitive; subordinate, obey, be under obedience, put under, subdue under, make subject, put in subjection to, submit self to; same word used in **Romans 8:7, 20** (twice); **10:3; 13:1**], **not only** [merely, alone, but, only] **to avoid** [*dia*] **God's wrath** [desire, violent passion, abhorrence, punishment, anger, indignation, vengeance, wrath; same word used in **Romans 1:18; 2:5, 8; 4:15; 5:9; 9:22; 12:19; 13:4**] **but also for the sake of** [*dia*] **conscience** [co-perception, moral consciousness, conscience; same word used in **Romans 2:15; 9:1**]. **6 For because** [*dia*] **of this you also pay** [present active indicative] **taxes** [load, tax, tribute], **for the authorities are** [present middle indicative] **ministers** [*leitourgos*; public servant, functionary in the Temple or Gospel, worshipper of God or benefactor of man, minister] **of God, attending** [present active participle; earnest towards, persevere, be constantly diligent, attend assiduously all the exercises, adhere closely to, attend continually, continue, wait on continually; same word used in **Romans 12:12**] **to this very thing.** **7 Pay** [second aorist active imperative; completes, executes, concludes, discharges, accomplishes, makes an end, expires, fills up, finishes, goes over, pays, performs; same word used in **Romans 2:27**] **to all what is owed** [indebtedness, a sum owed, obligation, duty, debt, due] **to them: taxes** [load, tax, tribute; same word used in **Romans 13:5**] **to whom taxes** [load, tax, tribute; same word used in **Romans 13:5**; earlier in **Romans 13:7**] **are owed, revenue** [limit, conclusion, result, impost, levy, custom, ending, finally, uttermost; same word used in **Romans 6:21, 22; 10:4**] **to whom revenue** [limit, conclusion, result, impost, levy, custom, ending, finally, uttermost; same word used in **Romans 6:21, 22; 10:4**; earlier in **Romans 13:7**] **is owed, respect** [*phobos*] **to whom respect** [*phobos*] **is owed, honor** [value, money paid, valuables, esteem dignity, honor, preciousness, price; same word used in **Romans 2:7, 10; 9:21; 12:10**] **to whom honor** [value, money paid, valuables, esteem dignity, honor, preciousness, price; same word used in **Romans 2:7, 10; 9:21; 12:10**; earlier in **Romans 13:7**] **is owed.**

Are there any repeated words?

Authority, resist, fear, good, wrath, subject(ion), taxes, revenue, respect, honor

What are some observations of the text?

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. **5** Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. **6** For because of this 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.

Apply (What is the point?)

1. Christians are subjects (to God first and to governments later)
2. Christians doing good have nothing to fear
3. Christians should pay what Christians owe

Personalize (What do we do with that?)

1. **Submit**
2. **Do good**
3. **Pay up**

Next week: Fulfilling the Law Through Love (13:8-14)

8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. **9** For 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.

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.

Homework

Resources (our helps—order matters)

- Holy Spirit
- Bible: [Romans](#) (ESV)
- Church: bit.ly/FlemingSS
- Tools: bit.ly/romans2017

Our process

- Ask (the Holy Spirit for help)
- Read ([Romans](#))
- Talk (about [Romans](#)—bit.ly/romans2017group)
- Send (feedback to jim314@yahoo.com by Wed)

Quotes & Observations

Amy Valovcin (Hughes)

Many of the difficulties found in this chapter result from what is read into it rather than from what it actually teaches.

Jessica Norris (Kroll)

God established three institutions: the family, the church, and the government. He meant for the government to be led by godly people but this was never realized because of humankind's sin. God did not create government the way we see it today but Kroll points out that when bad government prevails, we attempt to change it. But we still pay our taxes in the meantime.

Jim Fleming (Piper)

desiringgod.org/messages/the-limits-of-submission-to-man