

## Romans Chapter 13: Love Fulfills the Law of the Land

This chapter encourages believers to obey the laws of our society, and Paul gives reasons why a believer should comply with human law.

- ❖ To avoid punishment/wrath. (1-4)
- ❖ To have a clear conscience. (5-7)
- ❖ To demonstrate Christian Love. (8-10)
- ❖ To demonstrate our love for Christ Jesus. (11-14)

### **Talking Points**

- V1. Believers obey the law of the land because God has ordained human authority.
- V2. Define civil disobedience. Mahatma Ghandi and Martin King, Jr. practiced civil disobedience, should a Christian ever practice civil disobedience?
- V3. God's purpose in ordaining governmental authority was to restrain wickedness and promote human virtue; however, the Declaration of Independence purpose was to rebuke Great Britain's governmental rule over the colonies.
- *America was born out of civil disobedience.*
  - *The rule of human government is to encourage good works and discourage evil works.*
- V4. Governmental officers ought to be respected because the office they hold has been ordained by God.
- V5. The second reason we should obey the law of the land is for conscience sake.
- *Any citizen can obey state laws for fear of punishment, but Christians should obey human authority because of our godly conscience.*
  - *Christians are living between the tension of obedience to the state and obedience to God when the law of the land stands in opposition to God's word.*
  - *Should a Christian bow to the law of the land if the law offends God's word and our conscience? Be careful in using Acts 5:29.*

V6. Christians should pay taxes. While we may not agree with government subsidies to willfully withhold taxes has very serious consequences.

- *When a Christian pays taxes but refuses to pay tithes, the believer is not honoring God.*

Vvs. 8-10. When believers walk in love they fulfill all obligations.

- *Does verse 8 indicate that Christians should not borrow money or be in debt?*
- *If you borrow money please repay the debt as soon as possible.*
- *Christians do not need a law to make them do what God's love calls them to do.*

Vvs. 11-14. Paul instructs believers to obey the law of the land for Jesus' sake.

- *Paul's primary admonition to believers is to obey human law because Jesus is returning soon.*
- *Three final warnings for believers.*

A. Wake-up: be alert and aware for The Lord is coming soon.

B. Dress-up: put on the armor of God.

C. Grow-up: to put on Jesus is a call to maturity and to become more like Him