

Study Questions – Romans 13:1–14:23

Rom. 13:1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. ³ For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; ⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. ⁷ Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Rom. 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the law*. ⁹ For this, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the law*.

Rom. 13:11 *Do this*, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. ¹² The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

Rom. 14:1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions*. ² One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*. ³ The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. ⁴ Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Rom. 14:5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; ⁸ for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Rom. 14:10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

¹¹ For it is written,

“AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME,
AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD.”

¹² So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

Rom. 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this — not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way. ¹⁴ I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. ¹⁵ For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; ¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ For he who in this *way* serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. ¹⁹ So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. ²⁰ Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense. ²¹ It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or *to do anything* by which your brother stumbles. ²² The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. ²³ But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is* not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

1. Why is every person to be in subjection to the governing authorities? (13:1)

What is a person who resists authority opposing? (13:2a)

What is the result of this opposition? (13:2b)

2. How can you live with no fear of authority? (13:3)

What will be the result if you do evil? (13:4)

How is a minister of God described? (13:4)

3. Why is it necessary to be in subjection? (13:5)

(A) What does it mean to be in subjection? Give an example of godly subjection.

(A) Given an example of when subjection to authority would NOT be God's will?

4. What should be the Christian's attitude towards paying taxes? Custom, fear, and honor? (13:6-7)

5. What are we to owe to one another? (13:8a)

Explain how love satisfies the law? (13:8b-10)

6. What hour is it? What is near? (13:11)

What are we to lay aside? (13:12-13)

What are we to put on? (13:14)

(A) What do you need to lay aside or put on today?

7. About what should each person be fully convinced in his own mind? (14:5-6)

(A) Give a practical example of this principle in the context of your spiritual life.

8. For whom do we live or die? (14:7-8)

(PR) Explain 14:7-8 in a 10-word principle.

9. To what end did Christ die and live again? (14:9)

10. What two questions does Paul ask? (14:10)

a.

b.

Why should you not judge your brother or regard him with contempt? (14:10)

11. Explain how Isaiah 45:23, within its OT context and quoted by Paul in Rom 14:11, supports his assertion that all will stand before the judgment seat of God. (14:11)

12. To whom will each one give an account of himself? (14:12)

(A) How does knowing that you will give an account of yourself to God motivate you to make needed changes in your life? What changes do you need to make today?

13. Rather than judging one another, what should we determine? (14:13)

What does Paul know and is convinced is unclean in itself? (14:14)

To whom is it unclean? (14:14)

How could you hurt your brother with your food? (14:15)

(A) Give an example of how you might hurt your brother by a practice that he may consider “unclean”.

14. What should you not allow to be spoken of as evil? (14:16)

What is NOT the kingdom of God? (14:17a)

What is the kingdom of God? (14:17b)

How is someone who serves Christ in this way considered? (4:18)

15. What do we pursue? (14:19)

What should not be done for the sake of food? Why? (14:20-21)

16. What should you have as your own conviction before God? Who is happy? (14:22)

17. Who is condemned if he eats? Why? (14:23)

18. What do you learn about God in Rom 13:1–14:23? How could you apply this truth to your life?

Write a prayer response to Rom 13:1–14:23.