

2012SERMON#12ROMANS 13DEALING WITH AUTHORITY

Romans 13:1-14

Today we are looking at how well we deal with authority.

SLIDE---How do you feel when you meet up with a police officer?

Often it depends on the situation.

If someone is robbing you and a police officer shows up,
he can be a hero to you.

SLIDE---Or, if you see flashing blue lights in your rear view mirror,
you may not be so happy to see him.

Sometimes people get rather upset with the police officer,
even though they are just doing their job.

What the Apostle Paul is saying today is

SLIDE---That God has placed the officer in authority,

And we are to always treat them with honor and respect,
even when we are being pulled over.

Paul's question to us is,

SLIDE---Should Christian obey a pagan government?

Take the guy caught by a ranger eating a bald eagle

The judge asked: Did you know that eating a bald eagle is a federal offense?"

The man said: Yes I got lost in the woods and was hungry.

When I saw an Eagle swoop down for a fish.

I figured if I followed the eagle I could get the fish.

In the process I killed the eagle.

So I figured since the Eagle would go to waste anyway I ate it.

The Judge replied: "Due to the extreme circumstance you were under and because you didn't
intend to kill the Eagle, the court will dismiss the charges. But if you don't mind the court asking,
what does a Bald Eagle taste like?"

Man: "Well the best I can describe it is a combination between a California Condor and a
Spotted Owl."

SLIDE-----There is more civil disobedience to governmental law today

It is not just confined to criminals.

How many red lights have you run?

How many speeding zones have you broken?

How many income taxes, welfare, or unemployment benefits did you hedge?

Cheating this decade, in one form or another

Is rampant even by government officials themselves

Today there is widespread violation of our drug laws.

Theft and shoplifting are at an all time high,

And Identity Theft this past year affected 8.1 million people.

We are citizen of the kingdom of God.

But Paul is saying that as Christian we must obey

The laws of this world,

Because First of all--

I. (SLIDE) AUTHORITY IS GOD ESTABLISHED

SLIDE---Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Romans 13:1

Why did God established government in the first place

To curtail evil.

Before Noah and the flood there was no government and evil abounded so much

That God decided to destroy the whole world in Genesis 6

SLIDE---5 **The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that very inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. 6 The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. 7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth-men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air-for I am grieved that I have made them."**Genesis 6:5-7

After the flood,

God set up a government under Noah.

As chief commander and overseer with consequences.

SLIDE---"Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man. Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.:"Genesis 9:5-6

There are three institutions that have been ordained of God in this world.

SLIDE---In each of them, there are levels of submission and authority.

1. **The Family** - The family is a small community of related people who have as their interest the mutual care of one another.
2. **The Church** - The church is a small community of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. They have as their interest the worship and service of God as well as the mutual care of one another.
3. **The Government** - The government is a larger community of people who are brought together under central leadership. They have as their interest the mutual good of all other citizens.

Since the time of Noah

God ordains and detains government.

SLIDE---No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt a man. But it is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another. Psalms 75:6-7

God also gives to the wise and godly wisdom,

And to others he lets to their own demise.

SLIDE---He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. Daniel 2:21

The fact that God places Government in power

And assign its rulers

Doesn't mean he agree with their conduct.

Or that what they always do is right.

The emperor or presidents were

Often were blood-stained warriors;

unprincipled men;
The laws were made to give the world the advantage.

But God was still in control.

He makes the difference.

Consider

Sam Houston was the first president of the Republic of Texas. It's said he was a rather nasty fellow with a checkered past. God sent a preacher to him who shared the gospel and Sam Houston made a commitment to Christ and was baptized in a river. The preacher said to him, "Sam, your sins are washed away." Houston replied, "God help the fish." King Duncan, Collected Sermons, www.Sermons.com

NOW PAUL MOVES TO A SECOND POINT.

II. AUTHORITY REQUIRES OBEDIENCE

SLIDE---Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Romans 13:1

The word Submit or be subject here is: a military word for obedience.

Disobedience is no more an option here than in the military.

We are under command to

submit to the governing authorities.

That have been established or ordained by God

Disobedience brings punishment.

SLIDE---Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. Romans 13:2

The punishment is no one's fault than our own.

If we are breaking the law, we should expect to be manhandled.

Arrested and jailed.

If we are caught,

then we should stop complaining or

whining that we are a victim because

we brought it on ourselves.

God has clearly instituted the government.

Most people obey the law because they fear being caught.

Or the fine they will have to pay.

SLIDES---For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Romans 13:3-4

Peter affirmed that God put government officials to keep order

SLIDE--- "are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers. I Peter 2:14

Now there is in our present-day thinking

to suppress or reject the all aspect of the law and authority.

We have gone soft on crime.
we say that when people commit crimes
it's not their fault.
It's because of their environment,
or because of their economic condition,
or because they have some behavioral disorder.

Those may be factors in why crimes are committed,
but when government doesn't carry out
its God ordained function of
punishing evil swiftly and decisively,
crime will only escalate as it has the past several decades.

We watch as the authorities let the squatters
Sit on the streets for weeks.
Until murders, rapes, abuse and violence
Not to say anything about disease and trash
Was so bad they were finally removed.

God would want us to challenge the
government officials and community leaders
to think of the ways we can praise those
who normally do good,
and live by the law.
And to help them be law abiding citizens.

Sometimes it's the way law are written
That make it difficult like some of our tax laws.

Do you realize that in many cases those couples who make a life-long
commitment to each other in marriage
often pay more in taxes than the couple
with the same income who live together
without the commitment of marriage?
Especially true in our senior citizens.
There is something wrong with that picture.
It ought to be the other way around!

Another example is to change the welfare laws.
That if you get money from the government
You should have to give back something to the government.
We should get support not for what we are,
But for what we have done.

The government was placed here to
Uphold a moral conscience,
If our society tears down the very things.
That are central to our society.
Then we will have widespread lawlessness.
Immorality,

The breaking down of our family based society.

It doesn't take a genius to see that we
Today are reaping the fruit that we
have sown the last 70 year of modernistic thinking.

The moral training of children is seriously
disrupted by the breakup of the home.
The removal of God's commandment from our school and courthouses
And other reinforcement of moral law and conscience.
Leave us open to topics of choice where
There are no absolute of right and wrong.

Pretty soon anything goes
And we do not have enough police officers on the street to control
The crime that will take place.
And we will end up with the lawlessness
That is happening in Mexico even as we speak.

More and more people today are committing crimes
and not feeling bad about it
Such actions and attitudes
Meet the displeasure of God
And he will punish them.

The other side is true as well.
WE MUST LIVE WITH

III. AUTHORITY WITHIN OUR CONSCIENCE

SLIDE---Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. Romans 13:5

Only if the government opposed the law of God,
And violates our conscience under God
Then we are to obey God rather than man.

SLIDE--- "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29)

Now I do understand the right of protest.
But it must be in accordance with the law of the land.
And Gods principles of protest.

Just because it might hinder your happiness.
And not give you a welfare life.
Or unemployment benefits for ever.
We do not have a right to protest.

But if it violates one's belief then it is right to resist
And to suffer the consequence of the government.

SLIDE----"But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of

their terror, neither be troubled; but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." 1 Peter 3:14, 15.

God put the government and leaders into place
To protect the good against the evil;
to restrain oppression, injustice, and fraud;
and thus promote the peace and harmony of the community.

If we did not have government,
we would have anarchy.
A Government has to be extremely evil & corrupt
than to be worse than anarchy.

SLIDE---We saw that in the reign of Hitler
Where the extreme evil and corruption
killed and murdered Millions.
And God called the world to step up
And put an end to this madman's rule.

There is a right to resist.
Now Paul end with a summary of our
Specific responsibility to government.

IV. AUTHORITY FOR TODAY'S CHRISTIAN

SLIDE---Apostle Paul Summarize with 5 principles.

1. We are to obey the government

5Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience Romans 13:5

2. We are to pay our taxes to the government

Slide---This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their And full time to governing. Romans 13:6

3. We are to pray for the government and those in office.

SLIDE---Pray this way for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior" (1 Timothy 2:2-3, NLB).

And when God is pleased then he protects.

All England fasted when they faced the coming invasion by the Spanish Armada. God answered and sent a storm to destroy the Spanish fleet, and England became the dominant force in the world. We speak English today and not Spanish because the English Church fasted for God to intervene.

4. We are to give respect and honor to those who deserve it

Slide---Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Romans 13:7

This mean our leaders in Washington.

Our President, Governors,

Our Mayor and City Council in Local government

Teachers and principals.

Police and fire fighters.

Health care workers.

Pray daily for all who lead.

You don't have to agree with their politics to pray for them.

God might just hear and answer your prayer.
But we all are in need of God's Guidance.

5. We are to be good citizens and assist the government by living in harmony with our neighbor citizens in obedience to God's commandments. He list the commandments. **"Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:9-10**

Then Apostle end by saying:

SLIDE---Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. Romans 13:14

IN other words Take on His character and his characteristics

And live as Jesus would like.

Remembering Love fulfils the whole law.