

LESSON 11

CONTROLLED BY LOVE

ROMANS 13:1–14



1 If you only had six months to live, what changes would you make in your life?
How about six weeks? six days?



Read Romans 13 and the following notes:

☐ 13:1 ☐ 13:1ff ☐ 13:3, 4 ☐ 13:8 ☐ 13:9 ☐ 13:10 ☐ 13:12–14 ☐ 13:14

2 How did the Roman government treat Jews and Christians?

3 What are some of the characteristics of good government that are outlined in the first part of the chapter?

4 Where else does the Bible talk about the connection between loving others and fulfilling the law?

5 Why do you think Paul closed this chapter with such a note of urgency?

6 What does it mean to give respect and honor to someone in authority?



7 How is obeying authority a matter of conscience or principle, rather than simply one of avoiding punishment?

8 In what way is love a proof of faith?

This chapter discusses obeying authority, loving others as fulfillment of the law, and living with anticipation and a sense of urgency. As Christians, it is important that everything we say and do communicates clearly that we love God and others. This message can so easily be compromised by refusing to submit to authority, being preoccupied with our own selfish needs, or not being disciplined in doing what is right. All of this can distract us from our purpose, drain us of our resources, and dilute our witness. Our walk and our talk must agree or we won't be able to influence our world for Christ. The world desperately needs

people who are willing to allow their actions to be motivated by concern for others and not by selfish desires. What do others see in you?

9 How do we compromise our Christian witness in the way we obey authority? in the way we relate to others?



10 How should you regard those currently in authority over you? What actions or attitudes of leaders or officials make it more difficult for you to obey them?

11 What does this passage suggest about the Christian's attitude toward civil disobedience? What can we do to take a stand for what we believe is right?

12 How does Paul's principle of obedience apply when people find themselves under the authority of a corrupt government?

13 Who are some of the people in authority over you at home, school, work, church, and in the government?

14 Think of a situation where you have a poor attitude toward someone in authority over you. What needs to change in your thoughts and actions to handle this situation more respectfully and lovingly? How might you start working on this today?



A What conditions in the Roman Empire greatly assisted the spread of the gospel? What events from Paul's own life might explain his high view of the Roman authorities?

B What reason does Paul give for submitting to civil authorities?

C How does this passage relate to the sovereignty of God? to faith and hope?

D In what instances did Jesus or his followers disobey the political authorities? How might we interpret such acts?

E When and why should civil rulers be feared?

F What do you think should be the responsible Christian attitude toward the separation of church and state? What implications does this have for our participation in politics and government?

G What different interpretations might we give for Paul's statement that "our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (verse 11)?

H How might you live differently if you knew the Lord's return was near? What can you do to implement some of these changes now?

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