

INTRODUCTION - ROMANS 13:1-14

The danger of this chapter is that our study will be overly impacted by contemporary political experiences. As much as possible, let's agree to resist importing our experiences onto the text because eisegesis, imposition, and projection are not appropriate for Bible study. Instead, let's agree to prioritize the text (and its context) to ensure that a biblical view informs our understanding of how we are to receive the blessing of God's gift of government and authority.

Keep up: complete N.T. Wright, *Romans: 18 Studies for Individuals and Groups*, p. 75-79.

Governing authority is God's gift to help people in a troubled world coexist.

Romans 13:1-7 → Engage with government on theological terms.

Our response to government authority reveals what we think about God.

- The principles of government authority (13:1-2)
 - ◆ God authorizes government authority (1)
 - ◆ God executes justice through government authority (2)
- The purpose of government authority (13:3-7)
 - ◆ For people live freely, as God intended (3-4)
 - ◆ For people to exercise faith practices as a moral choice (5)
 - ◆ For people to exercise faith practices with a clear conscience (6-7)

Romans 13:8-10 → Engage with one another on the foundation of love.

The way we treat one another reveals what we think of God's Word.

- Christians are obligated to love.
 - ◆ Love demonstrates that we are under the authority of God's law.
 - ◆ Love demonstrates that we are under the authority of community.

Romans 13:11-14 → Engage with the times in the light of Christ's return.

How we live reveals what we anticipate/expect of the time to come.

- Live in the light of eternal hope (*with an eschatological orientation*) (13:11-12a)
 - ◆ Consider that which is to come to help you persevere.
- Live by the moral compass of Christ (*by righteous operation*) (13:12b-14)
 - ◆ Consider He who has already come to show you the way.