



HARVEST FORT WORTH / EQUIP CLASS

Sunday December 21, 2025
Teacher: Bob Taylor

TITLE: SUBMIT TO AUTHORITIES AND LIVE RESPECTFUL LIVES FOR ALL TO SEE

INTRODUCTION:

Review: Romans 13:1-5

- Christians should submit to our governing authorities for all authority comes from God.
- If non believers and believers rebel against local, state and federal authority that God has instituted they will be punished.
- Anyone who breaks the law should be afraid but those who do what is right will be honored.
- We as Christians do have the right, in some cases, to demonstrate Civil Disobedience.We should stand for God's laws when the Government contradicts what is spoken in God's word.

1. GOVERNMENT WORKERS NEED TO BE PAID FOR THEY ARE SERVANTS OF GOD

Romans 13:6-7

6 Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. **7** Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

2. BE RESPONSIBLE TOWARD YOUR NEIGHBORS AND LOVE THEM

Romans 13:8-10

8 Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. **9** For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." **10** **Love does no wrong to others**, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.

QUOTE: (by Pastor Paul LeBoutillier) Calvary Chapel, Ontario, Canada

"Christians should be the most respectful and obedient people on the planet."

3. PUT ON CHRIST KNOWING OUR SALVATION IS NEARER THAN WHEN WE FIRST BELIEVED

Romans 13:11-14

11 This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. **Wake up**, for our **salvation is nearer** now than when we first believed. **12** The night is almost gone; **the day of salvation will soon be here**. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. **13** Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. **14** Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.

- Paul the Apostle, in his lifetime, believed the church was living in the last days and Jesus Christ's coming was imminent, that is, could happen at any time.

4. PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN LIBERTY TOWARD OTHERS

Romans 14:1-4

1 Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. **2** For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. **3** Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't. And those

who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them. **4 Who are you to condemn someone else's servants? Their own master will judge whether they stand or fall.** And with the Lord's help, they will stand and receive his approval.

5. BE CAREFUL NOT TO JUDGE OTHERS AS TO WHICH DAY THEY THINK IS MORE HOLY

Romans 14:5-11

5 In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable. **6 Those who worship the Lord on a special day do it to honor him.** Those who eat any kind of food do so to honor the Lord, since they give thanks to God before eating. And those who refuse to eat certain foods also want to please the Lord and give thanks to God. **7** For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. **8** If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. **9** Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead.
10 So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. **11** For the Scriptures say,
"'As surely as I live,' says the Lord,
'every knee will bend to me,
and every tongue will declare allegiance to God.'"

6. BE MINDFUL OF OTHERS SO YOU DON'T CAUSE THEM TO STUMBLE AND VIOLATE THEIR CONSCIENCE

Romans 14:12-23

12 Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. **13** So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.
14 I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. **15** And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died. **16** Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good. **17** For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of

living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **18** If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too. **19** So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.
20 Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. **21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble. 22** You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God. Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right. **23** But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.

JESUS CHRIST IS OUR KING AND HIS KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD. OUR PERMANENT ADDRESS AS BELIEVERS IS IN HEAVEN. WE ARE ALIENS AND STRANGERS ON THIS EARTH SO LET US REPRESENT AND REFLECT HIM WHILE WE ARE HERE.