

Romans 13 (part 2) and Romans 15

Review last time:

Submission to the Authorities

13 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. **3** For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, **4** for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. **5** Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. **6** For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. **7** Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Why we should be subject to human, civil authorities

- Established by God
- Civil authorities are to promote justice, general good and to restrain evil
- Civil authorities are: God's servants for our good; ministers of God
- Resisting authority resists what God has appointed
- Give taxes, respect and honor to whom it is due

vs 4

But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

“Bearing the Sword” - Capital Punishment

“Bearing the sword” means...

3 Key Scriptures

Genesis 9:5-6

5 And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

**6 “Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed,
for God made man in his own image.**

Context

God speaking to Noah after the flood waters receded. A new Covenant was established. Reinstated creation principles and a new standard for life.

What are the principles here?

Romans 13:4

But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

Context:

Submission to civil magistrates

Civil authority is God's servant

Civil authority is ordained by God to promote good and restrain evil--by force, if necessary

What are the principles here?

Acts 25: 9-11

9 But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?” 10 But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar's tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well. 11 If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death.

Context:

Paul, in Rome itself, before Festus at the Caesar's Tribunal. Had originally appeared before Jewish & Roman authorities in Jerusalem on penalty of death but, using Roman Law, appealed to be tried before Caesar.

What are the principles here?

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT VIEWPOINTS

	MANDATORY	PROHIBITED	PERMITTED
1	Absolute language. Affront to God Himself; sanctity of life and image-bearing creation (Gen 9:6) Gen 9:6 pre-dates & transcends Mosaic law and is rooted in universal creation ethic	Israel's theocracy was unique; no longer exists; Israel's civil law does not apply now	Mosaic Law limits execution: Intent, proportionality, proof, due process
2	Ordains the sword for certain offenses; Punishment is proportionate to crime. When not executing for murder, civil authorities fail to perform their God-appointed responsibility (Gen 9:6; Mosaic law; Rom 13)	Christ's sacrifice ended requirement for blood recompense (Heb 9:14)	Gave room for mercy when justice was due. God did not execute Cain, Moses, David. God demonstrates His love for us by not condemning us (Romans 5:8)
3	NT does not denounce; assumes right of state to use it (Acts 25:10-11)	Gospel has different approach to responding to evil (John 8; woman caught in adultery)	State has authority, but not the obligation. Permitted, not mandated, not prohibited Caution: often unjustly administered by law enforcement & courts; risk of executing an innocent person (racism, poverty)

Romans 15

Paul the Minister to the Gentiles

¹⁴I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. ¹⁵But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God ¹⁶to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. ¹⁸For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; ²⁰and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, ²¹but as it is written,

**"Those who have never been told of him will see,
and those who have never heard will understand."**

Look at the ground he covered OUTSIDE Jerusalem



Rom 15:17-19

17 In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. 18 For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, 19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;

Isaiah 42:1

**"I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'**

1st missionary journey 2 years

2nd missionary journey 3 years

3rd missionary journey 4 years



¹⁸ For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God

²⁰ and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, ²¹ but as it is written,

*“Those who have never been told of him will see,
and those who have never heard will understand.”*

Paul's Plan to Visit Rome

²² This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. ²³ But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, ²⁴ I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

²³ But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, ²⁴ I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.



²⁵At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints.

²⁶For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. ²⁷For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. ²⁸When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. ²⁹I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

Encouragement to Give Generously

8 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.