

# **THE BOOK OF ROMANS**

## **15. Living in Submission**



### **Introduction**

In the news we are constantly reading about problems in the governments of the world – leaders are overthrown and impeached, there are conflicts between parties and corruption within the parties. What should our attitude as Christians be towards our government? The Apostle Paul writes about this in the next chapter.

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 13:1-14

### **1. Living in Submission to Authorities v1-7**

- ☉ It tells us in verse 1 that God has established all authorities. Does this mean those which are evil, as well as those which are good? Discuss.

*(It is clear from the Scriptures that God has established all and he allows them to rule for his will and purposes, even though they may be ungodly.)*

- ☉ How does God use these governing authorities according to v3-4?

*(He uses these authorities to commend those who do right, and as his servants to punish those who do wrong.)*

- ☉ Notice that it says three times that the authorities are God's servants. What difference will knowing this make in our attitude towards our government leaders?

*(It is easier for us to respect and submit to them, knowing that by obeying them we are really pleasing the Lord.)*

- ☉ One of the governing authorities in most countries is the tax department. What reasons does Paul give for paying taxes? See verse 5

*(The first reason is so that we won't be punished for not paying! However, more importantly, that we can have a clear conscience.)*

### **2. Living in Love with Others v8-14**

- ☉ Why is love considered to be the fulfilment of the law? V8-10

*(All the commandments regarding our relationships with others are summed up in one law – 'love your neighbour'. When we love others we will not break the law.)*

- ☉ In order to love others we need to put aside the deeds of darkness. What are some of these deeds or desires of the sinful nature we need to put aside? Romans 13:13, Ephesians 4:25-31

*(We need to put aside orgies, drunkenness, sexual immorality, debauchery, dissension, jealousy, falsehood, anger, stealing, unwholesome talk, bitterness, rage, brawling, slander, malice, unforgiveness, etc.)*

- ⊗ How can we 'put on the Lord Jesus Christ'? See Romans 13:12, 14. What can we learn from these verses?

*(First of all it needs to be something we want to do! We have to choose to do the right things, and as our minds are transformed, our words and actions will change too.)*

- ⊗ What changes would you like to see in your life right now?

## **Conclusion**

God wants our lives to be different to those living around us. This begins with having a different attitude towards others and towards those in authority over us. We can't change ourselves, but as we continually choose to 'put on the Lord Jesus Christ' and live in submission to him, we will gradually be changed to become more like him.

