

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.
- ☉ How does God use these governing authorities according to v3-4?
- ☉ 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?
- ☉ One of the governing authorities in most countries is the tax department. What reasons does Paul give for paying taxes? See verse 5

2. Living in Love with Others v8-14

- ☉ Why is love considered to be the fulfilment of the law? V8-10
- ☉ 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
- ☉ How can we 'put on the Lord Jesus Christ'? See Romans 13:12, 14. What can we learn from these verses?
- ☉ 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.