

Civil Responsibilities

Romans 13

1. Intro

1. Last week we talked briefly about being transformed. By changing the way we think.
2. We had mentioned that we are not to take revenge but let God deal with it.
 1. How does that work if someone is continually evil?
3. Paul brings us to civil responsibilities regarding gov't.

2. Civil Responsibilities

1. Definition
 1. submission – surrendering power to; obedience – dutiful behaviour with respect to another
2. Paul states that “everyone” (believer & non-believer) must submit to gov't authority.
 1. It is God who has put the rulers in place (1) (Dan 4:17)
 2. Submission is an attitude of compliance and/or support
3. Refusing to come under gov't authority is refusing to come under God's authority (2)
4. If we do right we should not fear our gov't. (3)
 1. But what if our gov't is doing wrong?
 1. Then we stand against it, submitting to God's direction. (Acts 5:28-29)
 1. Undesired consequences may happen (prison; martyr)
 2. A difference between permitting and requiring (i.e. same sex marriage)
5. We submit because of possible punishment, not only from gov't, but also from God.(5)
 1. Gov't has been given the right to punish evildoers.
6. Being submission to gov't also requires us to pay taxes (6)
 1. Paul emphasis what Jesus emphasized (Mark 12:17)
 1. Jesus would pay taxes to the very gov't that was going to kill Him.

3. Personal Responsibilities

1. Watch out for debt (8)
 1. Debt should be always be repaid.
 2. It is connected with a love attitude
 1. How can we serve someone if we owe them.
 1. Our service would be out of obligation.

4. The Urgency

1. We do all this because the time is coming when our salvation (glorification) will be complete (11-12)
 1. There will be a time when we stand before Jesus to give an account.
2. The night is our earthly life and our struggles here (12). Jesus brings us a new day.
 1. We need to put aside our evil deeds and put on holiness (Eph 6:11)
3. Because we belong to the Light (Jesus) we must live in the light.
 1. Don't be involved in sinful things
 1. S.I.N. - Self Indulgent Nature
4. Put on Jesus

5. Conclusion

1. This chapter deals with living in the world as a Christian.
 1. Paul counseled submission to human government
 2. Love for all people while we actively wait for our Lord to appear.