

Put On the Lord Jesus Christ

Lesson 11
December 22
Romans 13-14

Building on the deep doctrinal foundation of [Romans 1-11](#), the apostle Paul is helping us understand what it means to live as “sacrifices” to God in [Romans 12-16](#). God is the potter and we are the clay, shaped according to his good will. So what form will that shaping take in everyday life? In [Romans 13-14](#), Paul focuses on four areas of life: respect for authority, love for neighbor, self-control, and the handling of our opinions.

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. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ([13:1-2](#))

This is especially significant as we remember when Paul is writing this letter and to whom. Even in Rome itself, disciples of Jesus are to respect authority. Why?

- ❖ Rulers are to be God’s servants who carry out God’s wrath on wrongdoers ([13:3-4](#))
- ❖ For the sake of our consciences, it is good for us to be in subjection ([13:5](#))
- ❖ We are called to pay what is owed to all: taxes, revenue, respect, and honor ([13:6-7](#))

“Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law” ([13:8](#)). Love does no wrong to a neighbor ([13:9](#)), therefore love is the fulfilling of the law ([13:10](#)).

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. ([13:11-14](#))

And what about our relationships with each other? What will it look like to live as “sacrifices” to God?

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ([14:1](#))

What sort of opinions might disciples in Rome have quarreled about in the first century?

- ❖ Whether a person could eat anything, or only vegetables ([14:2-4](#))
- ❖ Whether one day could be esteemed as better than another, or all days are alike ([14:5-6](#))

As living sacrifices to God, what do we need to remember?

For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. ([14:7-8](#))

God is the judge of each one of us and we will all give an account of ourselves to him ([14:10-12](#)), so Paul calls on us to stop acting as each other’s judges and decide never to cause anyone to stumble ([14:13-23](#)).

For Class & Family Discussion:

- Why is it important for us to remember that **Romans 13:1-7** wasn't written to Americans in the 21st century, but to Romans in the 1st century? Does that mean these verses don't apply to us?
- Does this mean disciples of Jesus should never "resist" the authorities (**13:2**)? How does Paul's teaching in **Romans 13** relate to what the apostles said in **Acts 5:27-29**?
- How will practicing **Romans 13:7** lead me to live a God-shaped life of obedient faith?
- If we owe each other anything, it's love (**13:8**). Why? Why does God care so much about the love that we have (or should have) in our hearts?
- In your own words, what do you think Paul is saying in **Romans 13:11**?
- What sort of "works of darkness" need to be "cast off" and what is "the armor of light" that needs to be "put on" (**13:12**)?
- Why do we, as living sacrifices to God, need to be really careful in the way we handle our opinions (**14:1**)?
- Paul gives us some really basic principles to remember and live by in **Romans 14:7-12**. What's the big idea being talked about in these verses?
- What should we take away from Paul's four focal points in **Romans 13-14**: respect for authority, love for neighbor, self-control, and the handling of our opinions?