

# Episode 130

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For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These - and other such commandments - are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law. This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

- Romans 13

Everyone must submit to and support the governing authorities. For there can be no authority in the universe except by God's appointment, which means that every authority that exists has been instituted by God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So, anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and when you resist authority, you are kicking against the divine order of God which will have severe consequences, and the government will no longer be working to your advantage.

Civil authorities don't intimidate those who are doing good and do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong, there is no peace or godly contentment. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Simply do what is right and you'll never need to fear those in authority. Instead, they will commend you for your good citizenship as you add kingdom value to the world we get to live in.

Also, it's important to remember that the authorities are God's servants for the good of society. If they lack integrity, take it up with your heavenly Father. But if you are doing wrong, of course, you should be afraid, for they are God's agents of punishment to bring criminals to justice. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep your conscience clear.

This is also the reason you pay your taxes because it is freeing to live with a clear conscience before God. Plus, governmental authorities are God's officials who oversee these things, and government workers need to be paid, just like you. We are serving God in what we do and will be held accountable for the part that we pay.

So, it is our privilege to submit to those God has appointed over us by paying all the taxes and fees that they require and to respect those who are in authority, honouring them accordingly.

Just a thought. Use it, don't use it.  
Paul

# ONE33