

A Study of
THE BOOK OF ROMANS

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The Apostle Paul

Paul's Background

1. Paul was born a Hebrew.
2. He was named Saul after the first king of Israel.
3. Paul's occupation was tent making. (Acts 18)
4. Paul was educated by Gamaliel (according to Acts 22:3)
 - 4.1. One of the greatest Jewish teachers of that century
5. Paul was a Pharisee (religious party – Acts 23)
6. Paul was Hebrew and Hellenist. (familiar with both cultures)
7. Paul spoke Greek and Aramaic and could read Hebrew. (Acts 21)

Persecution of the Church

1. Paul admitted in his letters that he persecuted the church. (Acts 22)
2. Paul was present at the stoning of Stephen. (Acts 7-8)

Paul's Conversion (Acts 9)

1. Paul was confronted by Jesus
 - 1.1. Paul was on his way to persecute Christian Jews
 - 1.2. His eyes were blinded for three days.
2. Paul's conversion involved a flawed understanding of Jesus
 - 2.1. Formerly, he viewed Jesus as a false messiah; after he met Jesus on the road, he viewed him as the Son of God, the Savior of the world, and the Lord of his life.
 - 2.2. Paul's conversion did not concern a lack of zeal for God; He did not change from being a God-hater to a God-lover.

Paul's Death

1. According to tradition, Nero beheaded Paul in Rome.

Paul the Apostle (Acts 21)

1. Paul preached Jesus as the Messiah
2. Paul preached salvation for the Gentiles
 - 2.1. Jews rejected Paul

The Church at Rome

The Occasion

1. Tradition attests that Peter founded the church.
2. Edict of Claudius forced Jewish Christian leaders out of Rome.
 - 2.1. Gentile Christians led the Church.
3. Edict of Claudius was reversed when Nero assumed office.
 - 3.1. Many Jewish Christians probably returned to Rome.
 - 3.2. Large influx of Jewish Christians into a primarily Gentile church.

Purpose for Letter

1. To address the need for unity between Christian Jews and Gentiles.
2. To explain that true righteousness is imparted by God through faith.

Challenge

I want to challenge you to devote yourself to praying during the next week for God to prepare your mind and your heart for what you will learn during this study of Romans. Many people's lives have been changed as a result of them studying the book of Romans.

Martin Luther's life was changed while conducting a study of Romans with his students. He came to the understanding that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and not by the works of man. Martin Luther's new understanding led to the reformation of the church. Luther worked to translate the Bible in German and eventually other languages, making God's word available people around the world.

Augustine's life was also changed while studying the book of Romans. Augustine was a young man who enjoyed what the world had to offer. He was known to participate in pagan worship, and he was open to trying new religious practices and beliefs. Augustine studied the book of Romans and was convinced he must become a fully devoted follower of Christ. He would go on to lead the church to preach and teach God's word to the nations.

Paul wrote that the gospel is the power of salvation to those who will believe (Romans 1:16). I believe your life will be changed during this study of Romans. Pray that your mind will be focused and your heart will be open to what God has to say to you through this study.

Paul's Call to Preach the Gospel (1:1-17)

Paul's Calling (1:1)

1. A humble calling – to be a bond-servant.
 - 1.1. Paul represented Christ.
 - 1.2. Paul was utterly in subjection to Christ in conscience and conduct.
2. A divine calling – by God.
 - 2.1. Apostleship – commissioned by Christ.
 - 2.2. Paul's conversion was a result of a divine encounter.
3. A specific calling – for the gospel of God.
 - 3.1. Gospel He promised.
 - 3.2. Gospel concerning his Son.

Gospel of God

1. Jesus was born a descendant of David. (1:3)
2. Jesus was declared the Son of God. (1:4)
 - 2.1. Jesus was empowered through the resurrection. (1:4)
 - 2.2. According to the Spirit of Holiness. (1:4)
3. Jesus Christ is Lord. (1:4)
4. Through Him, we have received grace and apostleship. (1:5)
 - 4.1. To bring about obedience of faith for His name's sake. (1:5)

Paul's Obligation in Rome

1. Paul addressed the saints at Rome. (holy ones). (1:7)
2. Paul praised God for the faith expressed by the church. (1:8)
 - 2.1. Through the persecution of the Jews.
 - 2.2. Through the persecution of all Christians in Rome.
3. Paul is obligated to preach to Greeks and barbarians (natives). (1:14)
4. Paul preached first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.
5. Paul was eager to share the gospel because of its power to save. (1:16)

Sin and the Consequences of Sin (1:18-32)

Unrighteousness and Truth

1. Unrighteousness hinders truth. (1:18)
 - 1.1. Does not glorify God. (1:21)
 - 1.2. Does not recognize God's wisdom. (1:22)
 - 1.3. Corrupts our view of God. (1:23)

Hindering truth - The root word used to describe the act of aiming or steering a boat. When we choose to sin, we steer our minds and our hearts (and others) away from God's truth. This steers us away from the true light, Jesus Christ.

God's Wrath Concerning Unrighteousness

1. God gave them over to the desires of their hearts. (1:24)
 - 1.1. Man's foolish heart was darkened. (1:21)
 - 1.2. Served the creature rather than the creator. (1:25)
 - 1.3. Exchanged the natural for the unnatural. (1:26-27)
 - 1.4. Encouraged others to participate. (1:32)

The Cause of Sin

1. Man refused to acknowledge and glorify God.
 - 1.1. God made Himself evident to man. (1:19)
 - 1.2. Creation tells of His eternal power and divine nature. (1:20)
 - 1.3. Man exchanged incorruptible God for an image of corruptible man. (1:23)

The Results of Sin

1. The result of sin is sin. (1:28-32)

Three well known characteristics of sin:

 - 1.1. Will take you further than you wanted to go
 - 1.2. Will keep you longer than you want to stay
 - 1.3. Will cost you more than you want to pay

God's Impartial Judgment (2:1-16)

All Are Guilty

1. Those who judge are without excuse. (2:1)
 - 1.1. They condemn themselves. (2:1)
 - 1.2. They are self-righteous. (2:3)
 - 1.3. They take God's kindness for granted. (2:4)

The kindness of God leads to repentance. (2:4)

Righteous Judgment

1. Unrighteousness leads to wrath. (2:5)
 - 1.1. Result of stubbornness and unrepentant heart. (2:5)
 - 1.2. Result of selfish ambition. (2:8)
 - 1.3. Results of performing evil deeds. (2:9)
2. Righteousness leads to eternal life. (2:7)
 - 2.1. Glory, honor, and peace. (2:10)

All Are Without Excuse

1. Those with the law are judged according to law. (2:12)
 - 1.1. The law was provided through Moses.
 - 1.2. Doers of the law will be justified. (2:13)
2. Those without the law will perish without the law. (2:12)
 - 2.1. The law is written on their hearts. (2:15)
 - 2.2. Their thoughts will accuse or defend them. (2:15)

God judges all people without partiality.

Hypocrisy or True Righteousness (2:17-29)

Flaws of hypocrisy:

1. Hypocrisy condemns us
2. Hypocrisy builds pride
3. Hypocrisy destroys our witness
4. Hypocrisy skews our view of sin (our own sin)

False reliance upon the Law

1. Jews rely on knowledge of the Law for righteousness. (2:17)
 - 1.1. They approve of things that are essential. (2:18)
 - 1.2. They are guides to the blind. (2:19)
 - 1.3. They are teachers to the immature. (2:20)

Jews were well versed in God's Law but their knowledge did not translate in to righteousness because they were not transformed by the law from the inside out.

The Jew's response to the Law

1. Taught not to steal while stealing. (2:21)
2. Committed adultery. (2:22)
3. Claimed to despise idols while robbing temples. (2:22)
4. Dishonored God and his Law. (2:23)

Jews believed they understood the Law and that they were above condemnation as a result. Their disobedience is a result of their lack of love and honor toward God.

The result of the Jews' hypocrisy (also see Matthew 23)

1. Jews condemned by the Law. (2:28)
2. Blasphemed the name of God – among the Gentiles. (2:24)
3. Forfeited their rights as Jews. (2:28)

True righteousness

1. Circumcision is not something purely outward in the body. (2:28)
2. Belief is inward - circumcision is of the heart by the Spirit, not by the letter. (2:29)
3. A true believer is one whose praise is not from people, but from God. (2:29)

God is Faithful and Righteous (3:1-20)

Unfaithfulness of Man

1. Man's response to the revelation of God.
 - 1.1. Their identity was in God's promises. (3:2)
 - 1.2. They were entrusted with the knowledge of God. (3:2)
 - 1.3. They were still found to be unfaithful. (3:3-4)

God's Faithfulness and Righteousness

1. Man's unfaithfulness does not nullify God's faithfulness. (3:3-4)
 - 1.1. My unrighteousness demonstrates God's righteousness. (3:5-6)
 - 1.2. God's righteousness is no excuse for my unrighteousness. (3:7-8)
 - 1.2.1. We will be judged for to our sins.
Reference: We are dead to sin. (Romans 6:1-2)
2. All are guilty, but God remains faithful. (3:9-18)

The Role of the Law

1. The Law speaks for itself. (3:19).
2. Man will not be justified through the Law. (3:20)
3. The Law reveals the knowledge of sin. (3:20)

We Are Justified by Faith (3:21-31)

Man's Need for Righteousness

1. Righteousness is available to all who believe. (3:22)
2. All are in need of salvation. (3:34)
 - 2.1. All sin – miss the mark
 - 2.2. Glory of God – to show Him honor

Righteousness through Christ

1. Justification is a gift from God. (3:24)
 - 1.1. Justification – without guilt
2. Redemption is through Christ. (3:24)
 - 2.1. Redemption – deliver or buy back
3. Christ is the propitiation for sin. (3:25)
 - 3.1. Propitiation – atone or cover

God's Demonstration of Love

1. Jesus paid the price for all sin. (3:25)
 - 1.1. Previous sin – covered by future sacrifice. (3:25-26)
2. No room for human boasting. (3:27)
 - 2.1. Justified by faith. (3:28)
 - 2.2. Justified apart from the works of the Law. (3:28)
3. Justification is available to all. (3:29-31)
 - 3.1. The Law was given to the Jews.
 - 3.2. Christ was given for all.

Faith Establishes the Law

1. Humbles the sinner.
2. Exalts God.

Faith Credited as Righteousness (4:1-25)

Abraham's Righteousness

1. If by works, men would boast. (4:1-2)
2. Abraham believed. (4:3)
 - 2.1. Works result in wages. (4:4)
 - 2.2. Faith resulted in righteousness. (4:5)

David's Testimony

1. Righteousness apart from works. (4:6-7)
2. God's forgiveness is a result of his grace. (4:8)

Righteousness Available to All

1. Abraham's righteousness prior to circumcision. (4:9-10)
2. Circumcision was a seal of Abraham's righteousness. (4:11)
3. He is the father of all who believe. (4:11-12)
4. Righteousness through faith. (4:13)
 - 1.1. If through Law, faith is made void. (4:14)
 - 1.2. Law brings wrath. (4:15)
5. Grace to all who believe. (4:16)

Abraham's Faithfulness

1. He believed against all odds. (4:18-22)
 - 1.1. Abraham questioned his own ability. (4:18-19)
 - 1.2. Abraham grew strong in faith. (4:20)
 - 1.3. Abraham gave God the glory. (4:20)
 - 1.4. Abraham trusted God's ability. (4:21)

Salvation is available to all who believe

“but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.”

(4:24-25)

The Life of Joy (5:1-11)

The trouble with many men is that they have got just enough religion to make them miserable. If there is not joy in religion, you have got a leak in your religion.

Billy Sunday

We Have Peace with God

1. Harmony with God. (5:1)
 - 1.1. Shalom – the way things should be.
2. Assurance of Salvation. (5:1)

We Have Access to God's Grace

1. Christ is the hope of glory. (5:2)
 - 1.1. Col 1:27 – *the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*
2. Christ is our hope in tribulation. (5:3-4)

Tribulation → Perseverance → Proven Character → Hope

Paul gives three examples in this chapter of how we experience God's grace.

We Experience God's Grace

1. Through His presence. (5:5)
2. Through His provisions. (5:6)
3. Through His payment. (5:7-8)

We Are Saved from God's Wrath

1. Justified by His blood. (5:9)
2. Reconciled through His death. (5:10)
3. Saved by His life. (5:10)

A Christian's joy is not determined by circumstances. Our joy is found in the One who gave His life for you and me.

The Abundance of Grace (5:12-21)

Consequence Sin

1. Spiritual death entered into the world. (5:12-14)
 - 1.1. Separation from God. (5:12)
 - 1.2. Death spread, for all sinned. (5:12)
 - 1.3. Death reigned from Adam to Moses. (5:13-14)

Adam's Sin / Christ's Gift

1. Adam's sin resulted in death of many. (5:15)
 - 1.1. One offense produced death of many. (5:15)
 - 1.2. Adam introduced sin to the world. (5:16)
 - 1.3. By Adam's transgression, death reigns. (5:17)
 - 1.4. Sin was a result of disobedience. (5:19)
2. God's grace is abundant in Christ. (5:15)
 - 2.1. Through the gift of Christ. (5:15)
 - 2.2. Christ's payment was for all sin. (5:16)
 - 2.3. By the grace of God, life reigns. (5:17)
 - 2.4. Christ's gift was the result of obedience. (5:19)

The Law and Grace

1. The Law entered that sin would increase. (5:20)
 - 1.1. The Law opens our eyes to sin. (5:20, 7:7-8)
 - 1.2. Knowledge of sin opens our eyes to God's grace. (5:20-21)

"Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you're beyond the need of God's grace."

The Believer and Sin (6:1-14)

Dead to sin

1. Do not sin so that grace may increase. (6:1-2)
2. We are buried into Christ's death through baptism. (6:3)
3. We are buried so that we can be raised to new life. (6:4)
4. The old self was crucified and we are no longer slaves to sin. (6:5-7)

Believers live for God

1. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.
 - 1.1. Jesus conquered death. (6:9)
 - 1.2. Future sacrifices are no longer necessary. (6:9-10)
 - 1.3. Christ died to sin, and lives to God. (6:9-10)
2. You are no longer slaves to sin
 - 2.1. Do not obey the desires of the flesh. (6:12)
 - 2.2. Present yourself as an instrument of righteousness. (6:13)
3. Live as one who is under grace. (6:14)
 - 3.1. As one who is in Christ
 - 3.2. With humility

The Results of Sin / The Results of Grace (6:15-23)

The results of sin

1. Sin is a deceiver.
 - 1.1. Leads to enslavement. (6:16)
 - 1.2. Leads to shame. (6:21)
 - 1.3. Leads to death. (6:16, 21, 23)

Characteristics of true obedience

1. Obedience is a requirement. (6:16)
2. Obedience comes from the heart. (6:17)
3. Obedience requires a commitment. (6:17)

Results of obedience

1. Leads to righteousness. (6:16, 18)
2. Leads to freedom from sin. (6:18)
3. Leads to sanctification. (6:19)
4. Leads to eternal life. (6:22)

Our Response

1. Commit everything to God. (6:16)
 - 1.1. Begin with your heart. (6:17)
2. Present yourself as a slave to righteousness. (6:19)
 - 2.1. Resulting in sanctification. (6:19, 22)

My Flesh And The Spirit (7:1-13)

The Law Is Binding In The Flesh. (7:1-3)

1. The flesh is unable to live up to the Law.
 - 1.1. Matthew 26:41 – **“The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”**
2. We are dead to the Law through Christ. (7:4)
 - 2.1. Romans 6:11 – *“Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God is Christ Jesus.”*

Sin Has No Authority In My Life

1. We serve in newness of the Spirit. (7:6)
 - 1.1. I Cor 5:17 – *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”*

The Law Exposed My Sin

1. Exposed my need for Christ. (7:12-13)

I Thessalonians 4:7 – “For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.”

My Struggle for Holiness (7:14-25)

Holiness Is Not An Option.

1. We are called to live a holy life. (I Thessalonians 4:7)
2. We are called to a living faith in Christ. (James 2:14)
3. God does not hear those who respect sin. (Psalm 66:18)

The Problem: My Flesh Is Sinful.

1. My flesh is weak, and sin seeks to enslave me.
 - 1.1. My flesh desires to sin. (7:14)
 - 1.2. My flesh produces nothing that is good. (7:18)
 - 1.3. My flesh is led by sin. (7:20)

Isaiah 64:6 – “*And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment.*”

“I can give it up whenever I want to. I’ve done it a thousand times.”
-Mark Twain-

God’s Solution To My Struggle.

1. Seek to serve God (be enslaved). (7:25)
2. Set your mind on things of the Spirit. (8:5)

“*But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*” *Romans 8:11*

Experiencing Life and Peace (8:1-17)

Life and Peace Are Possible Through Christ.

1. Jesus condemned sin in the flesh. (8:3-4)
 - 1.1. To fulfill the Law. (8:4)
 - 1.2. To free us from the bondage of sin. (8:5)

Those Who Belong To Christ Walk In The Spirit.

1. We are in the Spirit if the Spirit of God dwells in us. (8:9)
 - 1.1. The Spirit is alive in you. (8:10)
 - 1.2. God gives you life through His Spirit. (8:11)
2. We no longer live by the flesh. (8:12)
 - 2.1. We are putting to death the deeds of the body. (8:12-13)
 - 2.2. We are adopted as children and heirs with Christ. (8:15-17)

“*Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*”
Romans 8:1

II Corinthians 5:17 – You are a new creation in Christ.

Romans 8:5 – 5-7 – Those according to the Spirit set their minds on things of the Spirit.

Romans 8:9 – If you do not have the Spirit, you do not belong to God.

If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95% of what we do would go on & no one would know the difference. *A.W. Tozer*

What if the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from your life? Would you or anyone else notice?

Living In The Hope Of Glory (8:18-39)

Christ in you is the hope of glory. (Romans 5:2, Col 1:24-27)

Our Hope of Glory Supersedes Our Current Circumstances.

1. Present suffering cannot compare to the hope we have in Christ.
 - 1.1. We wait eagerly. (8:19)
 - 1.2. We wait expectantly. (8:23)
 - 1.3. We wait with confidence. (8:24-25)

We Find Confidence Through God's Provisions.

1. The Spirit intercedes for us. (8:26-27)
 - 1.1. He knows the will of God.
 - 1.2. He knows your heart.
2. We are predestined to become conformed to the image of Christ. (8:29-30)
 - 2.1. He predestined us.
 - 2.2. He called us.
 - 2.3. He justified us.
 - 2.4. He glorifies us.
3. It is impossible to be separated from the love of God. (8:31-39)
 - 3.1. He delivered you.
 - 3.2. He will sustain you.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NASB) – *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

The True Children of God (9:1-33)

Paul showed great concern in the first three verses of Romans 9 for the nation of Israel because they may have felt that God had forgotten them or went against his promises to them. Paul emphasized the focus of righteousness in Christ and God's calling on all people, including Israel.

Paul Reminded Israel of Their Many Blessings

1. God cut a covenant with Israel. (9:4)
 - 1.1. Genesis 17:1-9 – God's covenant with Abram.
2. God gave Israel the Law through Moses. (9:4)
3. God promised the Savior through the seed of Israel. (9:4)

Paul Described the True Children of God.

1. Children of promise, not children of flesh. (9:6-8)
 - 1.1. Not limited to descendants of Israel. (9:6)
 - 1.2. Children as a result of God's mercy. (9:14-23)
 - 1.3. Both Jews and Gentiles. (9:24-29)

Righteousness Is The Result of God's Mercy and On The Basis of Faith.

1. The result of God's mercy. (9:29)
2. On the basis of faith. (9:30)

The Ultimate Decision (10:1-21)

Paul's letters to the churches express his love and concern for the welfare of the churches. His focus is not solely on the physical needs of the people, but for their salvation in Christ. He begins chapter 10 by reminding the church of this focus. God's plan for salvation included the opportunity for all men to know Him as Lord and many gentiles heard the word of God and believed in Him while much of Israel denied Christ as Lord. Paul sought to call all people to receive and respond to the word of faith.

Paul's Concern for Israel.

1. Paul was concerned for Israel's salvation.
 - 1.1. Paul was heart broken for Israel's salvation.. (10:1)
 - 1.2. Paul prayed earnestly for Israel's salvation. (10:1)
2. Israel sought salvation through the Law.
 - 2.1. Lack of knowledge of God's righteousness. (10:3)
 - 2.2. Living in bondage to the Law. (10:5)
 - 2.3. Denied salvation and righteousness through faith. (10:3, 10:21)

Salvation and Righteousness through Faith.

1. Righteousness is through faith in Christ.
 - 1.1. Christ is the end of the law for righteousness. (10:4)
2. Salvation involves the mouth and the heart.
 - 2.1. Confess Jesus as Lord. (10:9)
 - 2.2. Believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. (10:9)

God's Plan for Missions.

People call upon the name of God because of belief in what they have heard, from someone who preached the good news, and was sent by God. (10:14-15)

Hope For Israel and The Gentiles (11:1-36)

Paul seeks to encourage the Jews and the Gentiles, even though each has their own issues that need to be dealt with. The Jews were dealing with the thought that God had forsaken them while the Gentiles believed they were blessed by God as a result of somehow being above or more deserving than the Jews. Paul addressed both groups in chapter 11, beginning with the Jews.

Hope for Israel.

1. God did not reject his people. (11:1-3)
 - 1.1. The people's hearts were hardened toward God. (11:4)
2. God has chosen to deliver some. (11:5)
 - 2.1. According to his choosing. (11:5)
 - 2.2. On the basis of grace. (11:6)

Israel and Gentiles Benefit from Hardened Hearts.

1. The chosen were saved, the rest were hardened. (11:7)
2. Hardened hearts were foretold in scripture. (8-10)
3. Jealousy to lead Israel back to God. (11:11-12)
4. Israel's hardened hearts led Paul to the Gentiles. (11:13)

Paul Warned Gentiles Against Conceit.

1. Described as replacements for broken branches. (11:17-20)
2. God will cut the unbelieving branches. (11:21-24)

The Blessings of Israel.

1. Israel's hardening resulted in their salvation. (11:25-27)
2. Israel received mercy as a result of their obedience. (11:28-32)

Devoted Service to God (12:1-21)

Becoming a Christian involves the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He calls us and opens our eyes to the fact that we are sinful and need forgiveness. The only reason we can be forgiven for our blindness and our rebellion against God is because He loved you and me so much that He gave his life on the cross to pay the debt of sin. This means we can only be saved through Jesus and only by his grace and mercy. The view often shared in Christian society today is that we decide whether or not we are willing to allow Christ to be a part of our lives. We have a hard time realizing that we do not deserve Him and the ultimate gift we could ever receive is Jesus. This means we must become humble and obedient to Him instead of Him conforming to our desired God. He expects you and me to become more like Him instead of us expecting Him to become more like us.

I Am A Living Sacrifice.

1. As a result of God's mercy. (12:1)
2. This is my spiritual service of worship. (12:1)
3. God will transform those who follow Him. (12:2)
 - 3.1. Counter to worldly view of individualism.
 - 3.2. For God's glory and your benefit.

I Am Part of Something Greater Than Myself.

1. Humble servants serving as one body. (12:3)
 - 1.1. With different gifts and functions. (12:4)
 - 1.2. Members of one another. (12:5)
 - 1.3. With a single focus of glorifying God. (12:5)

I Am In Need of Christian Discipline.

1. I am to love others. (12:9-10)
2. I am to serve others. (12:11-15)
3. I am to be humble toward others. (12:16-21)

Seek To Honor God (13:1-14)

Paul wrote to a group of Christians that included Jews and Gentile believers. These believers experienced persecution from the government. Paul did not simply address the need to act a certain way toward those who governed. He addressed the heart and attitude of Christians toward all rulers. His message is one of humility and selflessness for the sake of glorifying God.

Show Humility Toward Those In Authority

1. Subject yourself to authority. (13:1-2)
 - 1.1. Authority is in God.
 - 1.2. Authority is established by God.
2. Resisting authority is opposition to God. (13:2)
 - 2.1. Authority is established to fulfill God's will. (13:3-4)
 - 2.2. Subjection is a moral responsibility. (13:5)
 - 2.3. Rulers are servants of God. (13:6)

Give Honor To Those In Authority

1. Give all that is due. (13:7)
 - 1.1. Taxes and customs. (13:7)
 - 1.2. Respect and honor. (13:7)
 - 1.3. Owe nothing but love. (13:8-10)

A Call To Purity And Self Denial

1. Consciously follow Christ. (13:11)
2. Lay aside evil deeds. (13:12-13)
3. Put on the armor of light. (13:12-14)
4. Deny the flesh for the sake of purity. (13:14)