

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ROMANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 27 - Submission to the Authorities - [Romans 13:1-7](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

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Obey Those in Authority

13 Everyone must obey the civil authorities that are over him, because there is no government except that which God has established, and the persons in authority have been placed there by God.

² So anyone who rebels against the government is actually rebelling against what God has established, and those who do so will be punished.

³ Those who do what's right have no reason to fear civil authorities, but those who do wrong have very good reason to fear. Do you wish to be unafraid of those in authority? Then practice doing what's right, and you will have praise for doing so.

⁴ Because the police are servants of God, working for your good. But if you're doing wrong, then you have good reason to be afraid, because they don't carry their weapons for no reason. They have been placed where they are by God as His servants, to bring His avenging anger against those who do wrong.

⁵ So you must put yourself under the authorities, not just to avoid punishment, but because you know it's the right thing to do.

⁶ That's why you pay taxes, because the governing authorities are God's servants, devoting full time to His work.

⁷ So pay what's due to everyone: taxes, where taxes are due, customs, to those collecting customs, respect, to those you should respect, and honor, to those whom you should honor.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 27 - Submission to the Authorities - [Romans 13:1-7](#)

317. How is the establishment of any government related to God? ([13:1](#))

318. How is a Christian to respond to the laws and leadership of government? ([13:1-7](#))

319. What attitude is a Christian showing toward God when he or she rebels against the government? ([13:2](#))

320. What consequences will those who rebel against the government bring upon themselves? ([13:2](#))
321. What should a Christian do to maintain a good relationship with the government? ([13:3-4](#))
322. For what reason are government officials in power? ([13:4](#))
323. What motivation does the Christian have to submit to the government? ([13:5](#))
324. What are governmental authorities? ([13:6](#))
325. How should a Christian respond to the tax laws and requirements of the government? ([13:6-7](#))
326. In addition to tax revenues, what does a Christian owe to his or her government? ([13:7](#))
327. Under what circumstances should Christians disobey the clear commands of government authorities?

Lesson 28 - Love, for the Day Is Near - [Romans 13:8-14](#)

Show Genuine Love for Others

⁸Don't be in debt to anyone for anything. But do remember the debt of love we owe to one another, because the one who practices loving others has fulfilled the Law.

⁹Because God's commands, "You must not commit adultery, you must not murder, you must not steal, you must not lie about others, you must not wrongfully desire what belongs to someone else," (*Ex. 20:13-17; Dt. 5:17-21*) and all other such commands of God are summed up in the one rule that states, "Love others in the same way that you love yourself." (*Lev. 19:18*)

¹⁰Love does no wrong to others in any way; so the law that we are to love others is the only law we really need.

Wake Up to What Time It Is

¹¹Also think of this: Since you know what time it is, you know it's high time that you rouse yourself from your sleep! Because the moment when we will finally be saved and taken to be with the Lord is much nearer now than when we first believed.

¹²The dark night is almost over, and the great Day is about to break. So we must throw aside all deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

¹³We must live honorable lives, as we do in broad daylight, not attending wild parties and getting drunk, not indulging in sexual immorality or other wrong indulgences to gratify our various appetites, nor in fights and jealousies.

¹⁴Instead, live as our Lord Jesus Christ would live if He were in your place. Don't even think about satisfying the desires of your sensual appetites in a wrong way.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 28 - Love, for the Day Is Near - [Romans 13:8-14](#)

328. In what area of life is a Christian to maintain a continuing debt? ([13:8](#))
329. What is the sign that a Christian has fulfilled the Law? ([13:8](#))
330. What one command sums up all the other commands? ([13:9](#))
331. What act and attitude is the fulfillment of the Law? ([13:10](#))
332. What "hour" had arrived for the Roman Christians? ([13:11](#))
333. How did Paul encourage his audience to live godly lives? ([13:11-12](#))
334. What specific behaviors does God forbid? ([13:12-13](#))
335. What kind of behavior contrasts with what God wants of us? ([13:13](#))
336. With what are Christians to clothe themselves? ([13:14](#))
337. What should a Christian be thinking about each day? ([13:14](#))
338. What does it mean that love is the fulfillment of the Law?