



Authorities

By Ken Terry on June 18, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Romans 13

God has established three institutions for mankind: *church, home* and *government*. These institutions are ordained by God. As followers of Christ, we must adhere to them. In this chapter, Paul is speaking to government authorities. God established these authorities because man is a sinner and must have authority over him. If man resists this authority, he is resisting God Himself. Does that mean we must follow tyrants? Do we have to follow people who twist the law to achieve their own personal agenda? No. There will be times that the institution projects teachings that are contrary to Christ and His Word. In such a case, we may not be able to respect the man and his policies. However, we must respect the office.

With that said, our conduct must not falter. Paul goes on to talk about following government authorities for conscience's sake and for love's sake. But what is most compelling to me is, *for Christ's sake*. We must abide in Christ by following His commands. We must continue to be just as loving, kind and courteous. You see, we have a higher authority by which we must give an account for our actions and behaviors, the Lord Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul says we are to WAKE UP out of our sleep. Salvation is nearer than when we first believed. We must CLEAN UP our act, meaning we are to walk properly and crucify all sinful passions and desires. Christ's righteousness must be seen in and through us. We must then GROW UP, meaning to put on Christ. We must be more like Him! We must be in prayer and in His word to understand what that means. If we seek Him, He will guide us in our understanding and reveal to us, by faith, all that He is for our daily living.

My friends, there is no better way to be a good citizen in the world than by abiding in Christ. The more we are in alignment with Him, the more we will be supportive with government authorities. Christian citizens are the best citizens.

PRAYER: Father in the Heavens, Creator of all that lives, grant me the wisdom to discern the world around me. Father, help me owe no one anything, except to love them, cherish them and support them to the absolute best of my ability. I ask this in Christ Jesus' name. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: Romans 14

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