

*“Let your only debt that is unpaid be that of love – a debt which you should always be attempting to discharge in full, but will never succeed in discharging.” ~ Origen (3<sup>rd</sup> century Church Father)*

**b) The Reason:** *Love fulfills the law* (13:8b)

- The Law’s fulfillment points to the “eschatological completion of the law, which was accomplished in Christ”. – C. M. Pate

**c) The Proof:** The Law is summed up by Love (13:9-10)

- Paul quotes several of the 10 Commandments as representative.
- He highlights the significance of “love your neighbor” (Lev. 19:18) – just like Jesus did (Matt. 22:34-40).
- He adds that we should not do harm to our neighbor either. (The “negative Golden rule” of Judaism).
- Love for others embodies or “sums up” the law

*“This probably does not mean simply a new focus for the law but rather it means that in loving according to the ‘new commandment’ (Jn 13:34; 1 Jn 2:8) we are replacing the law in the sense that we belong to the new covenant and therefore follow the new ‘law of Christ’ (Mt 5:17-20; Gal 6:2; 1 Cor 9:19-21).” ~ Grant Osborne*

- The law still helps us understand what is pleasing to God, but:

*“...the love of Christ flowing through the believer fulfills all that the law ever intended.” ~ C. Marvin Pate*

**Schedule:**

- Next week: no class, we will finish chapter 13 on June 22nd.

**Previous Handouts**

- Online: [www.theheightschurchmn.org/adult-sunday-school](http://www.theheightschurchmn.org/adult-sunday-school)

**Credits:**

Main sources for outline and shared quotes are:

- *Epistle to The Romans (NICNT)* by Douglas Moo [Eerdmans, 1996]
- *Romans (IVPNTC)* by Grant Osborne [IVP, 2004]
- *Teaching Romans, Volume Two: Unlocking Romans 9-16 for the Bible Teacher* by Christopher Ash [Christian Focus, 2009]

**V. Transforming Power of Gospel: Christian Conduct (12:1-15:13)**

**A. Exhortation to Live the Christian Life (12:1-13:14)**

**1. The Christian Life as Total Transformation (12:1-2)**

**2. Humility and Mutual Service in the Church (12:3-8)**

**3. Love for insiders and outsiders – (12:9-21)**

**a) Primacy of LOVE (12:9)**

**b) Love for Fellow Believers (12:10-13, 15-16)**

- **Live in Harmony with Fellow Believers** (v. 16a)
  - Emphasis on right thinking – needed to have harmony.
- **Don’t be proud** (v. 16b)

**c) Love for Unbelieving Outsiders (12:14, 17-21)**

**(1) Attitude toward Persecutors** (v. 14)

- Reflects Jesus’ teaching: Matt. 5:44, Luke 6:27-28.
- Catches the notice of unbelievers – 1 Pt. 2:12.
- Follows Jesus’ example – 1 Pt. 2:23, Luke 23:46.

**(2) Don’t Repay Evil for Evil** (v. 17a)

- Reflects Jesus’ teaching: Matt. 5:38-42; cf. 1 Thess. 5:15.

**(3) Live Honorably & Peaceably with All** (vv. 17b-18)

**(4) Leave Vengeance to God** (v. 19)

- God will ultimately set things right
- We can pray (imprecatory psalms, and Rev. 6:10).

**(5) Overcome Evil with Good** (vv. 20-21)

*“The evil man who is overcome by good is set free, not from an exterior, foreign evil but from an interior, personal one, by which he is more grievously and ruinously laid waste than he would be by the inhumanity of any enemy from without.” ~ Augustine (4<sup>th</sup> Century church Father)*

**4. Submission to Government (13:1-7)**

**a) General Command:** *“Submit to the Authorities”* (13:1a)

- “Submit” is to “place yourself under”
- Several different relationships call for submission:
  - Christ to the Father (1 Cor. 15:24-28)
  - The believer to God (James 4:7)
  - Slaves to masters (Tit. 2:9)
  - Christians to church leaders (1 Pet. 5:5)
  - Children to parents (1 Tim. 3:4)
  - Wives to Husbands (Col. 3:18)

*“All Christian submissions are expressions of the believer’s submission to God.” -Ash*

- (1) **First reason:** *they are appointed by God* (13:1b)
  - See: Dan. 2:21, Prov. 8:14-16, 1 Pet. 2:13-14, Jn. 19:11.
  - This is not just good governments, but all (*even Nero*).
- (2) **Consequences:** *resisting government means resisting God and brings judgment* (13:2)
- (3) **Second reason:** *government is God’s servant to reward good and punish evil* (13:3a, 4b) – see also 1 Pt. 2:14
- (4) **Consequences:** *if you don’t want to be frightened by authority, do right* (13:3b-4a)

*“There are two options – terror for the one who does wrong and commendation for the righteous. We must choose.” ~ Grant Osborne*

*“Authorities are partial, provisional and imperfect agents; nonetheless, they are agents of the wrath of God.” ~ Christian Ash*

**b) Restatement or Summary of the Command** (13:5)

- (1) **Command restated:** *one must be in subjection to governmental authority*
- (2) **[Second] reason summarized:** *to avoid God’s wrath (and judgment)*
- (3) **[First] reason summarized:** *for the sake of conscience (rightly seeing God’s sovereign hand behind government, you know it is right to submit).*
  - “Conscience” here means “an inner awareness of God’s will” – which is written on hearts (Rom. 2:14-15)
  - The conscience works properly in believers who have been transformed to “discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom. 12:2).

**c) Particular applications of the Command** (13:6-7)

- (1) **Paying taxes:** *direct and indirect* (13:6-7a)
  - He highlights again why this is right by using a special term for “minister” which has temple connotations (we get our word “liturgy” from it).
  - In a sense, government officials (which taxes support) are doing God’s work.
  - Even for increasingly unfair taxes, Paul insisted Christians should submit to the government and pay the tax.

(2) **Giving honor and respect** (13:7b)

- More than just a technical duty to pay up, Christians also are called to give respect and honor that is due to officials.
- 1 Peter 2:17 also emphasizes the honor we should show.
- This harkens back to Jesus’ teaching to “give to Caesar what is Caesar’s” – Matt. 22:21.
- We should also pray for authorities: 1 Tim. 2:1-2.

**Objection:**

- Government has an obligation to punish what is *actually evil* – meaning government should see itself as under God’s ultimate authority.
- If government directly forbids our speaking of Jesus or true worship of Him, we have a duty to God first.

*“We must obey God rather than men” – Acts 5:29b*

*“Paul demands submission but not blind obedience—the believer respects and submits in every way possible except when the government asks something contrary to God’s will.” ~ Grant Osborne*

*“But government does not have absolute rights over the believer, for government, like every human institution, is subordinate to God himself.” -Moo*

**Application:**

- Don’t lose sight of how this applies to all sorts of government, and our general call to submit to human institutions.
- We need to submit to our manager at work, or supervisor, our teacher and principal, our parents.
- Not only put ourselves under them but also honor and respect them. Don’t criticize them behind their back or belittle them.
- Even governing authorities, we didn’t vote for or with whom we have big differences of opinions – we owe them respect and submission.
- We can also be encouraged by God’s care in setting human institutions in place for our good – as part of his common grace.

**5. Loving One’s Neighbor (13:8-10)**

**a) The Command:** *“Love Each Other”* (13:8a)

- Love for Christians especially (“one another”).
- But love for all - parable of Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).