

Chapter 13



Romans 13:1-7 – about Authorities – might sound as if it is a completely new topic after Romans 12. But how, as Christians, do our relationships with earthly authorities connect with and follow from Romans 12:9-21- about Love?

13:4 What is the purpose of earthly authorities?

If we are not to “exact vengeance” (12:17, 19) then how are authorities “God’s agents of wrath” (13:4)?

In many countries, public authorities are called “Ministers”. How does this title remind us of their duty and ours?

Not all authorities use their position in God-pleasing ways. Does misuse of position negate our obligation as Christian citizens according to Romans 13?

How are Christian citizens supposed to interact with those in authority? (see also I Timothy 2:1-4)

How are these verses (13:1-7) helpful for Christian citizens and Christians in positions of authority?

How does this section connect with the 4th Commandment?

Does 13:8 instruct Christians to never owe money or take on debt? (mortgage, credit card, etc.)

Is 13:8 a suggestion or a command? (consider John 13:34)

What other sections of scripture might verses 9-10 connect to?

(13:11-13) What is being contrasted using sleep/awake and day/night?

13:12 “The night is nearly over” was written almost 2000 years ago. Was Paul mistaken? Do these verses apply to us today? How should we understand the “coming day”?

How does 13:13 follow from (and expand on) 12:1?

Compare 13:12 with Ephesians 6

Compare 13:14 with Galatians 3:27. Does “clothe yourselves” mean we are accomplishing our own salvation by our works?