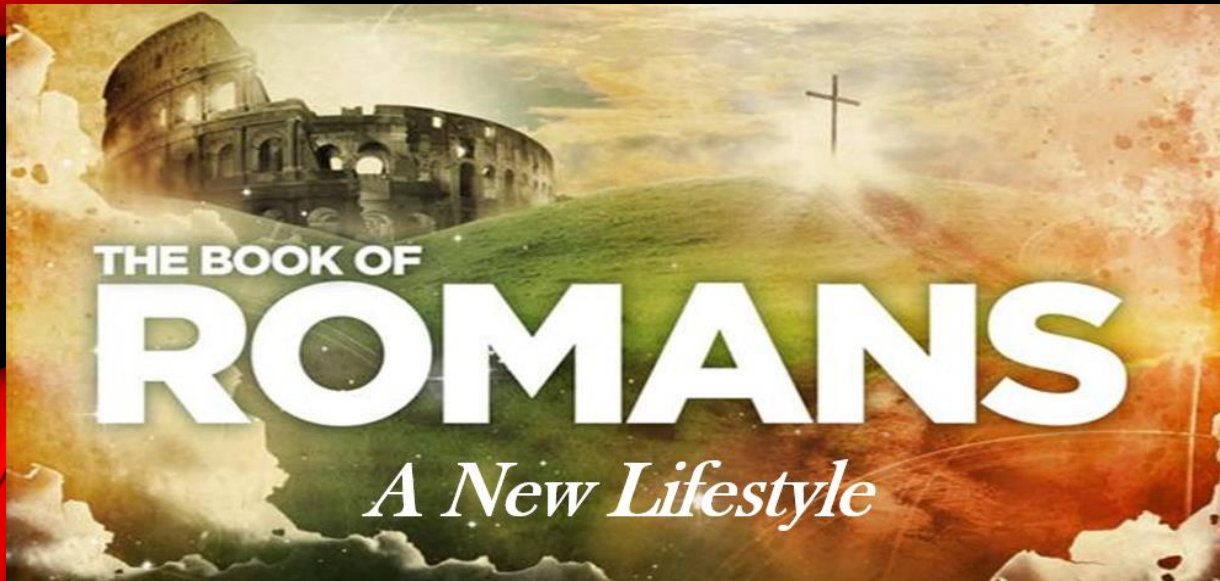


# SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY



## SRMBC 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> QTR BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Date	Lesson Title	Scripture
1/10/2018	Good News from God	Romans 1:1 -17
1/24/2018	The Wrath of God	Romans 1:18 - 32
1/31/2018	The Judgment of God	Romans 2
4/11/2018	The Verdict	Romans 3:1 – 20
4/18/2018	The Righteousness from God	Romans 3:21 – 31
4/25/2018	The Example of Abraham	Romans 4
5/2/2018	Reasons to Rejoice	Romans 5
5/9/2018	New Life, New Lifestyle	Romans 6:1 – 7:6
5/16/2018	Our Struggle with Sin	Romans 7:7 – 25
5/23/2018	The Spirit Brings Life	Romans 8:1 – 17
5/30/2018	Glorious Conquerors	Romans 8:18 – 39
6/6/2018	The Potter & His Clay	Romans 9:1 – 29
6/13/2018	Misguided Zeal	Romans 9: 30 – 10:21
6/20/2018	The Future of Israel	Romans 11
6/27/2018	Living As Living Sacrifices	Romans 12
7/11/2018	Submitting to Authorities	Romans 13 - 14
7/18/2018	Brothers & Sisters in Christ	Romans 15 - 16

## SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

# Romans: A New Lifestyle: Lesson 16: Submitting to Authorities Romans 13

## The Apostle Paul – The Letter to the Romans

- **Author:** Romans 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of Romans as the apostle Paul.
- **Date of Writing:** The Book of Romans was likely written A.D. 56-58.
- **Purpose of Writing:** His purpose in writing was to proclaim Jesus Christ by teaching doctrine and edify and encourage the believers.

### The Book Of Romans Tells Us:

- About **God**, who He is and what He has done.
- It tells us of **Jesus Christ**, what His death and resurrection accomplished.
- It tells us **about ourselves**, what we were like without Christ and who we are after trusting in Christ.



## Group Discussion:

**What comes into your mind when you hear the word authority? Why?**

From my old Army Days – I see images of old Drill Sergeant (“Push-Up” Brooks)

- Fear
- Belligerence
- Sometimes Anger
- Pride – “Nobody tells me what to do!”

### Why?

- It seems like the we have a built-in resistance to authority (the first word a baby learns to say “No!”).
- Nobody likes to be told what to do (even if it’s for their own good).
- Our sinful nature inherited from Adam.



## Romans 13:1 - 5 (NKJV)

**1 Let every soul be subject** to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

**2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God**, and those who resist will bring **judgment on themselves**.

**3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.**

**4 For he is God’s minister to you for good.** But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not **bear the sword in vain**; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

**5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake.**

## Romans 13:6 - 10 (NKJV)

6 For because of this **you also pay taxes**, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing.

7 Render **therefore to all their due**: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, **honor to whom honor**.

8 Owe no one anything **except to love one another**, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

9 **For the commandments**, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore **love is the fulfillment of the law**.

## Romans 13:11 - 14 (NKJV)

11 And do this, knowing the time, **that now it is high time to awake out of sleep**; for now **our salvation is nearer** than when we first believed.

12 The night is far spent, **the day is at hand**. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and **let us put on the armor of light**.

13 **Let us walk properly**, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

14 **But put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

## 1. What is Paul's view of authority and those who exercise it (vv. 1-5)?

### Paul's View of Authority

- **Inclusive** - Let every soul be subject.
- **Authoritative** – Higher Powers
- **Derivative** – Ordained by God and His Power
- **Protective** – Established by God for good to keep order

### Paul's View of Those Who Exercise Authority

- They ought to be obeyed
- They ought to be respected
- They ought to be revered (given honor)
- They ought to be prayed for (in good conscience)

## 2. How would Paul's view of governing authorities apply to wicked and perverse rulers such as Nero or Hitler?

### There are two ways to deal with this problem:

(1) Paul is presenting the norm here, i.e., the ideal for government. when justice collapses, the Church is obliged to voice its criticism of the state's failure in its God-appointed function.

(2) The other possibility is to introduce the principle of Romans 8:28, whereby God finds ways to bring good out of apparent evil in the long run.



### 3. What are some reasons Paul gives for submitting to those in authority (vv. 1-5)?

#### Reasons To Submit

- There is no authority except that which God has established.
- The authorities that exist have been established by God.
- Whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against God and will face judgement.
- When you do what is right and you will be commended.
- The one in authority is God's servant for your good.
- They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.
- As a matter of conscience – It is the right thing to do.

### 4. Do you think it is ever appropriate to resist rather than to submit to the authorities? Explain.

- Acts 4:19-20 provides a scriptural basis for civil disobedience.
- When obedience to God would be compromised or excluded by obedience to those in authority.
- In such cases those in authority have gone beyond the limits of the authority given to them by God.



Peter and John On Trial Before the Sanhedrin

Acts 4:19-20

5. In verses 6-7 Paul suggests some practical ways we should submit to those in authority. What other examples can you think of?

### Paul's Examples

- You pay taxes.
- You give leaders (whether you voted for them or not) reverence. (Daniel 3:16 – 18)
- You give leaders proper honor (for the sake of God and the office).

### Other Examples

- Obey the just laws.
- Pray for all leaders.
- Honor the national customs and protocols.
- Vote – Participate in citizenship actions/activities.

6. How does the focus of the passage shift in verses 8-14?

### Focus Change

- From obedience to authorities to command to fulfill the law by showing love for one another/others.
- From love to living in such a way that looks forward to the return of Christ.
- From being subject to earthy authorities to recognizing a Higher Authority.

7. In verse 8 Paul says, "Let no debt remain outstanding." Does this mean Christians should never incur any type of debts (mortgage, car and so on)? Explain your answer. Why is love a debt that can never fully be paid (vv. 8-10)?

- Absolutely not. While we should be careful not incur too much debt (Proverbs 22:7) it is not sinful as long we are faithful in our agreements to repay (Psalm 37:21; Matt 22:21).
- Love is a debt we owe to every man, as a man, being all made of one blood, and in the image of God. It also the way God in Christ has loved us.
- God Law is good and we at our best do well to fulfill it as Christ fulfilled it during His earthly ministry.

*"Compassion can't be measured in dollars and cents. It does come with a price tag, but that price tag isn't the amount of money spent. The price tag is love."—J. C. Watts Jr.*

8. In verses 11-14 Paul uses several vivid images to describe "the present time." How does each one give us a picture of how we should (or shouldn't) live?

<u>Image</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
<b>The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber.</b>	Because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed – Wake and act like you know...
<b>The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.</b>	So, let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.
<b>Let us behave decently, as in the daytime.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not in carousing and drunkenness,</li> <li>• Not in sexual immorality and debauchery,</li> <li>• Not in dissension and jealousy.</li> </ul>
<b>Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ</b>	And do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh



## KEYS FOR LIVING

- When we understand and appreciate the power and authority of Lord our God, we will find it much easier to submit to the authorities He has placed over us.
- There are times when we need to stand for the Lord in opposition to the authorities when those authorities attempt to coerce believers to disobey the Word.
- The command to Love God and to love others extends to everyone regardless of their position or even how they treat us.



QUESTIONS

?