

Questions on Romans chapter 13

1. Who are the “higher powers”? Verse 1.
2. How are the “powers that be” ordained or instituted by God?
3. What is the limit of our obedience and subjection to civil authorities?
4. What does it mean to resist the power? Why should Christians not resist? Verse 2.
5. What is an additional reason that Christians should not resist? Verse 3.
6. In what way is a ruler “the minister of God to thee for good”? Verse 4.

7. What are three reasons are given that an evil-doer should fear the authorities?

8. How does verse 4 relate to verse 19 in the previous chapter?

9. What two reasons are given for submission to government authorities? Verse 5.

10. Who is to pay these “ministers of God”? Why are they to be paid? Verse 6.

11. How many of the following should a Christian pay? (1) Dues on exports and imports. (2) Taxes. (3) Proper respect to authorities. (4) Honest commendation to those who serve well in public office.

12. Does this verse end all credit buying for Christians? Verse 8.

13. We do have a great debt that we owe. What is it?

14. How is refraining from the evils mentioned fulfilling the law of love? Verse 9.

15. How can we love our neighbor as ourselves? Verse 10.

16. Can you think of some things that would be included in “love worketh no ill to his neighbor?”

17. In what sense is salvation nearer today than when we first believed? Verse 11.

18. In what sense are we all “working on a night shift”? Verse 12.

19. What preparation is necessary for working in the Lord’s house?

20. What kind of conduct is forbidden? Verse 13.

21. How do we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ”? Verse 14.

Thought Questions:

22. (1) Does the statement “he beareth not the sword in vain” in verse 4 justify capital punishment? (2) Could a Christian be used as an instrument of the state to execute criminals? (3) Could you, in good conscience, do this?

23. Consider the definition of “resist” in verse 2. (1) Could a Christian have participated in the revolution of the colonies against England with the Lord’s endorsement? (2) Could a Christian have been a part of the rebellion against the union in 1861-1865? (3) Could a Christian in China or North Korea plot and work for the overthrow of his government?

24. Can a Christian be active in civil government? (1) Can a Christian execute wrath (12:19)? (2) Can a child of God participate in government even to the extent of voting?