

Learning How to Submit To Each Other – Romans 13

Sermon Based Life Group Notes for the week of November 10

Getting To Know Each Other

- Have you ever borrowed money from someone? Do you buy your car with cash or car loan? What was the interest rate of your first home mortgage?
- What federal or state law bothers you? Have you ever willingly broke a law because you didn't agree with it?

Into the Bible

Read Romans 13:1-7

- What is the definition of submission?
- What examples of godly submission are given in Ephesians 5:21 – 6:9?
- Verses 1-4 says God established governments. What was His purpose?
- Why shouldn't we fear any ruling government – good or evil? V - 3
- How does God feel about governments punishing its citizens?
- How does God feel about taxes?
- Do these commands apply even to the evil, godless governments? Discuss who were Paul's governing authorities when he wrote Romans?
- What about Acts 5:27-32? Do we ever stand up to evil, corrupt governments? When?
- What were the consequences for Peter and the other apostles? Acts 5:33, 40
- Application: What would be Paul's advice to us today? What should we do when faced with governmental leaders who we don't agree with, are godless or we feel they are leading our nation astray?
- Application: Has God ever called you to stand up for the truth and speak out against injustice, and then face the consequences?

Read Romans 13:8-14

- What is Paul teaching us about debt? Is it a good thing or bad thing?
- What is the one debt we must keep paying? Verse 8
- How do we fulfill all of the Old Testament laws?
- Why would love fulfill those laws?
- What is our call of duty as Christians? Why is our response urgent? V - 11
- What metaphors are used by Paul to show us how we have done with this call? V- 11-12
- In verses 12-13, what is keeping us from living a life of love?
- What does Paul mean by "deeds of darkness"?
- What does it mean to "clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ"?
- If you aren't wearing Christ, what other "clothing options" are mentioned in verse 13?
- Application: What can we do to make the "Jesus clothes" a better fit on us?
- Application: This past week, what specific moment of decision did you have when you had to choose to clothe yourself with Jesus or your sinful nature?