



Book of Romans
Lesson 6: Romans Chapters 13 – 16

1. Government and the church

Romans 13:1-8

Government is from God. He established it throughout the world and in the church.

We should obey governing authorities in the world because they have the power to punish our disobedience.

We should obey the laws in our land to keep a clear conscience.

Government and positions in government are from God. But the people who hold those positions are not necessarily godly people.

This scripture clearly tells us that we are to obey a government that punishes evil and praises good.

But what if our government does the opposite?

Answer: _____

When human laws contradict God's laws, we are called to follow God's laws.

Disobeying man's law is not the focus. _____

God's law is higher than man's law.

Romans 13:6-8

We are required by God to pay our taxes.

We also learn here that we are not supposed to owe anyone anything.

We should, because of the honor of God, pay our bills on time.

Romans 13:9, 10

Keeping the Ten Commandments insures a safe and honorable society.

When a society moves away from the Ten Commandments, that society has moved away from God's will (i.e., abortion).

2. Walking in the light

Romans 13:11-13

Most people walk honestly in the light but hide their sin under the cloak of darkness.

Christians are to walk in the light all the time.

2 Corinthians 6:14

Ephesians 5:8

Romans tells specifically the things we are not to be involved in, when walking in the light:

- _____

Definition of REVELRY: Letting loose

- _____

- Lewdness and lust

This is speaking about sexual sin.

- Strife and envy

This is talking about arguing and being full of jealousy.

3. Put on Christ

Romans 13:14

We have to "put on" Christ.

Our transformation is not totally automatic. We must do our part.

Definition of PUT ON: _____

How do we put on Christ? In Romans chapter 12 we were told to renew our minds with the Word of God.

We are to make no provision for the flesh.

Definition of MAKE NO PROVISION: Do not care for the flesh; do not supply anything for your flesh.

4. Receiving someone who is weak in the faith

In Chapter 14, Paul teaches us to accept a weaker Christian, not to reprimand him for his weak faith.

Unfortunately, we often do the opposite.

As humans, we often demand perfection.

God does not demand perfection. If He did, we would all be lost.

We must accept those weaker in faith and help them along in the Christian walk.

Romans 14:1-5

There were two questions raised by those who were weak in faith:

- Was all meat good to eat? What about meat sacrificed to idols? Some did not eat it. Some did. What about just eating vegetables and no meat?
- What day of the week are we supposed to worship?

5. What do we learn from Romans 14 and how does it apply to us today?

- _____

Romans 14:1, 2

Some things are not worth arguing about.

Some people are very opinionated. They try to argue that you should or should not live a certain way or do certain things but have no Biblical basis for it. Don't get involved in that.

We are not talking about sin.

Everyone should be welcome in church. But not everyone should feel comfortable after being there for a few weeks or months.

- Do not despise or judge each other about these things.

Romans 14:3

- Recognize that each person is God’s servant and personally responsible to God for what He is allowed to do.

Romans 14:4

This does not include sin. Obvious sin should not be tolerated.

However, there are issues in which religion judges people. We should not be in disputes over these things or treat them as “main” things.

In the Roman church the controversies were about eating meat and the day considered to be the Sabbath. Today we have different things.

Examples: What kind of clothes you wear; having a tattoo; drinking alcohol; what movies you watch; if you should have a Christmas tree

If you feel good about not doing it and your brother feels fine before God for doing it – you are both responsible to God personally.

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Romans 14:5-9

- Each of us will give an account to God and be judged by Him.

Romans 14:10-12

We are not supposed to judge our brothers or sisters on insignificant things. God is the judge.

- Decide to walk in love and give up doing anything that would cause your brother to stumble.

Romans 14:13-16

Example of causing my brother to stumble: Drinking a beer and knowing that my brother lived a life bound by alcohol before his salvation

What you think you have “freedom” to do in Christ, could cause your brother to stumble. Your “good” could become an “evil” thing.

- Christianity is not about what you can and cannot do. It is the evidence of God’s presence in us.

Romans 14:17

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In other words, do not major on the minors. There are more important things than how long your skirt should be or what television shows you watch.

Yes, some things are sin. But there are many things that simply do not matter. They are things to keep between you and God.

Romans 14:18-23

The first three verses of chapter 15 bring this to a conclusion.

Romans 15:1-3**6. Unity is possible between Jewish and Gentile believers.**

As Paul continues to deal with the conflict between Jewish and Gentile believers, he stresses how it is possible for them to live in unity, despite their differences.

Romans 15:3-7

It was prophesied that God would bring unity to Jews and Gentiles through Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:8-12**7. We are filled!****Romans 15:13**

This verse is conditional. God will fill us with joy and peace when we are in the state of believing.

Definition of IN BELIEVING: _____

Definition of JOY: Cheerfulness, calm delight, gladness, exceeding joy

Definition of PEACE: To prosper in you your mind, peace, quietness, rest

What does it mean to be full of joy and peace?

Definition of FULL:

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- To finish

- _____

- Fill up

- _____

When we are walking by faith, God fills us with joy and peace so that we will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Definition of POWER:

- Force

- Miraculous power

- _____

- Abundance

- _____

- Power

- Strength

- _____

- Mighty works

Because I am walking in the power of the Holy Spirit, I will abound in hope.

Definition of HOPE:

- Expectation

- _____

- To anticipate with pleasure

Definition of ABOUND:

- To superabound (in quantity or quality)

- _____
- To excel
- To be better
- _____
- To have enough and some to spare
- _____

Romans 15:14

Here are three things that God has already done in our lives. Paul was confident that these things were true.

All three of these things contribute to unity that is needed in the church!

- Believers are full of goodness.
- Believers are filled with all knowledge.
- Believers are able to admonish one another.

Definition of ADMONISH: To correct each other gently.

8. Paul's Ministry

The remainder of the chapter deals with Paul's ministry.

If you are born again, you are a minister of the Gospel! God has a ministry for you in which to operate.

Let's see what Paul says about his ministry and how it relates to our ministry.

- Our ministry should take us outside of our "circle".

Romans 15:15, 16

Paul was a Jewish religious leader, but God called him to the Gentiles.

God has not called us to minister to the people that we are necessarily comfortable with.

Get outside of your circle! It is good for you.

- Our ministry brings glory to Jesus because He is working through us.

Romans 15:17, 18

The ministry should not draw people to us personally – but it should lift up Jesus!

- We should be preaching the Gospel through our ministry.

Romans 15:19

- _____

The church is not the church without the supernatural!

- Our ministry should take us to people who have not heard.

Romans 15:20, 21

- Ministry is spelled W-O-R-K.

Romans 15:22, 23

Paul could not do everything he wanted to do, because he was working so hard in certain places.

He preached the Gospel to the point that there was no longer a need to preach it in the area he was writing from.

- _____

Romans 15:24-27

There will be opposition and times when you do not seem to have all you need. However, God provides for ministry that is truly His ministry.

- You cannot do it alone. God designed it so that you would need others.

Romans 15:28-33

9. People working with Paul

As Paul concludes his letter to the Romans, he specifically mentions people who are working in the ministry.

Romans 16:1, 2

Phoebe was a Christian woman who was given the responsibility of bringing Paul's letter to the Romans from Corinth to Rome.

Romans 16:3-5

Priscilla and Aquilla were leaders in the Roman church. They had a long history with Paul.

We see in these verses that they were willing to lay down their lives for Paul.

- _____

Acts 18:1-3

- Paul took them to Ephesus to establish the church there.

Acts 18:18, 19

- _____

Acts 18:24-26

- _____

1 Corinthians 16:19

Romans 16:6

Paul recognizes Mary because she labored much! (This seems to be a theme in the final chapter of Romans.)

Definition of LABORED:

- To feel fatigue due to hard work

- _____

Definition of MUCH:

- Many

- _____

- Mostly

- Largely

- Abundant
- Long
- Plenteous

Romans 16:7

Andronicus and Junia were apostles and prisoners.

Romans 16:8, 9

Here Paul specifically mentions a worker again.

Definition of WORKER:

- Co-laborer
- The root word means to toil.

Definition of TOIL:

- _____
- Work strenuously
- _____
- To proceed with difficulty
- To plod

Romans 16:10

Definition of GREET: To enfold in one's arms; to embrace

Why did Paul want the believers to embrace Apelles?

Answer: Because he was approved.

Definition of APPROVED: _____

Apelles had gone through trials and his faith stood firm. He proved his faith.

Romans 16:11, 12

Paul says the same thing about all these people that he said about Mary. They have labored much!

Romans 16:13-16

10. Conclusion

Romans 16:17, 18

The Bible warns us that there will be people in churches who cause division and offenses.

Sometimes you cannot help it if someone gets offended. You might cause this out of ignorance. It is just a part of life.

However, this is talking about someone in the church who causes division and offenses. Let's look at another place in the New Testament where Paul deals with this kind of person.

Acts 20:28-30

Romans 16:18 tells us they do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly,

Definition of BELLY: _____

Romans 16:18 - Message Bible

They have no intention of living for our Master Christ. They're only in this for what they can get out of it . . .

Romans 16:19, 20

Satan is already defeated.

Paul is talking about when Satan will no longer be able to operate in this world.

Romans 16:21, 22

Tertius was a scribe. Paul dictated the letter to the Romans to him.

Romans 16:23-27