

Calvary Church: Coordinated Curriculum 2007-2008

Romans: The Transforming Power of the Righteousness of God

Mark Your Observations

Record Observations & Questions

Romans 13:1-14

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| Repeated Alike Different Accentuated Related Think Context! |
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- 1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.
 For there is no authority except from God,
 and those that exist have been instituted by God.
- 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed,
 and those who resist will incur judgment.
- 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct,
 but to bad.
 Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority?
 Then do what is good,
 and you will receive his approval,
 for he is God's servant for your good.
- 4 But if you do wrong,
 be afraid,
 for he does not bear the sword in vain.
 For he is the servant of God,
 an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.
- 5 Therefore one must be in subjection,
 not only to avoid God's wrath
 but also for the sake of conscience.
- 6 For because of this you also pay taxes,
 for the authorities are ministers of God,
 attending to this very thing.
- 7 Pay to all what is owed to them:
 taxes to whom taxes are owed,
 revenue to whom revenue is owed,
 respect to whom respect is owed,
 honor to whom honor is owed.
- 8 Owe no one anything,
 except to love each other,
 for the one 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 covet,"
 and any other commandment,
 are summed up in this word:
 "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
- 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
 therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
- 11 Besides this you know the time,
 that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep.
 For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.
- 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand.
 So then let us cast off the works of darkness
 and put on the armor of light.
- 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime,
 not in orgies and drunkenness,
 not in sexual immorality and sensuality,
 not in quarreling and jealousy.
- 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ,
 and make no provision for the flesh,
 to gratify its desires. (ESV)

Review

Love one another and the things that are good, hate what is evil. But in the midst of evil, seek to live at peace with all, not retaliating evil for evil, bless and minister to those who are against you.

Introduction

Do Christians have to be Republicans?



But these three concepts in the order of priority?

American, Christian, Republican/Democrate

Do you believe that the lines between Christian, American and our political party get blurred? Why?

Romans 13:1-7

How do you respond to the concept of submission?



What is the main point of the section and what is the rationale behind it?

Summary

Implication

Read: *Discussion Points: The Church and the Election Process* (next page)

What do you notice about the order?

What aspects seem easy to agree with?

Are there elements of this statement that you struggle with?



Is your worldview formed or only informed by Scripture?

That is, are you conscious of why you believe what you believe?

Have you considered what Scripture says about:

life, the poor, oppression, supporting the less fortunate, patriotism, war and peace, marriage, sexual orientation, etc.?

Can you tell where your “political views” are more informed by your culture and perhaps a political party than Scripture?

Can you tell where your allegiance to Christ causes you to disagree with what “everyone believes?”

How will being a Christian form your decision in the fall on whom you are voting?

Romans 13:8-10

We are naturally self-centered. Our society is a “me-centered,” individualist, independent society. So how do we learn to demonstrate love?

Why does or how can Paul only state that the law is summarized by “loving your neighbor” when Jesus stated, love God and love others?

Romans 13:11-14

Paul assumes we are conscious of living in the end times, perhaps even anticipating the return of the Lord. Are you?

What does this passage say is the difference created from living with the end in mind?

Do you see that in your life? Why or why not?



Of the three main sections—in which one aspect do you know you need the most growth? What do you need to do?

Discussion Points: The Church and the Election Process

1. Christ's Church is a supranational body comprising the visible expression of the kingdom of heaven (kingdom of God) on earth in this age.
2. Every born again Christian is a citizen of the kingdom of heaven (Philippians 3:20), and his first loyalty is to his Lord and His kingdom. The interests of the kingdom of heaven come first, even if those interests are against his own nation's interests (Matthew 6:33).
3. Every Christian is also a citizen of a kingdom on earth, with responsibilities to that kingdom as long as they don't conflict with the responsibilities to the kingdom of heaven. We are salt and light (Matthew 5:13-14. See point 9)
4. The "politics" of Jesus (His will and requirements regarding how a society should function) take precedence to any other politics. The church is responsible to represent the "politics" of Jesus, speaking prophetically to the world as a representative of God's kingdom. We are suprapolitical, not apolitical. The politics of Jesus are to be discovered in Scripture, not in a party agenda. The politics of Jesus do not depend upon the use of secular power, but of spiritual weapons, (2 Corinthians 10:4). The church is to speak God's will, no matter what the political fallout is.
5. The saving and sanctifying purposes of God can not be achieved through human politics, but God can sovereignly use human politics to further His purposes. Law can contribute externally to sanctification in that it aims to restrain evil, but it can not transform evil people.
6. The earthly nation which is the focus of God's kingdom purposes is the nation of Israel, to be restored through God's work in His time. No other nation fits God's primary prophetic plan, although any nation can be used by God for His purpose, and therefore for His glory.
7. Authentic, effective Christian leaders are more preferable for a nation than are non-Christian leaders. "Authentic" assumes that they are genuinely submitted to the lordship of Christ; effective means that they can effect positive change and good for the nation through the political process, as empowered by God.
8. In a democratic republic, every citizen is potentially a participant in the election process, and has freedom to exercise righteous participation at many levels of public service. One motivation to be involved in the election process is gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy.
9. Christian citizens are responsible to love God and to love their neighbors, which includes the responsibility to seek authentic, effective Christian leaders who will pursue God's will and principles in public policy. There are no perfect candidates or parties in the political process.
10. God's will and principles are determined from Scripture, not from a political agenda, and therefore an individual's agenda should be based on Scripture.
11. At Calvary Church we will encourage Christian citizens to seek to influence society for God's glory when participating in the election process, becoming informed of moral issues and candidates' positions, and seeking to further God's agenda according to Scripture. We will not support any specific candidate or party, and will seek to avoid political polarization within the church.