

## Apostle Paul on Civil Authority and Order

***Even though the people of God are in the world, we are commanded not to be of the world, nor have the world's mind set. But we are to renew our mind unto the behavior that is pleasing to God, and do not forget that all have importance in the plan and purpose of God; even though their attitude may be to ignore God!***

**Rom 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

**Rom 12:2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**Rom 12:3** For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think (***which results in self pride***); but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith (***where of to please Him***).

**Rom 12:4** For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

**Rom 12:5** So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

***We have various gifts in the body/ Church of the Lord Jesus Christ according to grace***

**Rom 12:6** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith (***exercised***);

**Rom 12:7** Or ministry, *let us wait on our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

**Rom 12:8** Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity (***not with undo attention***); he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

**Rom 12:9** *Let* love be without dissimulation (***impartial***). Abhor that which is evil; cleave (***hold***) to that which is good.

**Rom 12:10** *Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another (***desire to associate with other with like faith***);

**Rom 12:11** Not slothful (***lazy***) in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

**Rom 12:12** Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant (***eager***) in prayer;

**Rom 12:13** Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

**Rom 12:14** Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

**Rom 12:15** Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

**Rom 12:16** *Be* of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high (***glamorous***) things, but condescend (***lower yourself***) to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits (***someone else may have answers you do not***).

***Vengeance vs. Justice are different side of the same coin:***

**Rom 12:17** Recompense to no man evil for evil (***vengeance***). Provide things honest in the sight of all men (***your truthfulness speaks of you; and not that you always owe the other person truth in any circumstance. But sometimes there is a benefit for "silence"?***).

*We are not to do things out of vengeance. Thus, the council of Christ Jesus is to turn the other cheek. Matthew 5:39. And we should understand that this is speaking in terms of “revenge”, because of this next verse:*

**Rom 12:18** If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

**Rom 12:19** Dearly beloved, avenge (*or revenge?*) not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord (*notice Paul is not talking about Justice here, but vengeance*).

**Rom 12:20** Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

**Rom 12:21** Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

*People are usually confused about this when it comes to capitol punishment in the society, and do not realize that the state, or ruling authority is obligated to carry out Judgments even unto death for the good/ survival of society. Otherwise, the society would devour itself, and no flesh shall survive because evil, sin, and iniquity is with us. And so we see nation fight against nation, and we fight among ourselves because of evil, sin, and iniquity. But administration of societal laws unto Justice should not be out of vengeance!*

*In this dispensation where men are permitted to rule kingdoms on earth, God has extended His power and authority into the hands of men to keep order in the societies of men. But ordering the angles (fallen or otherwise) are not part of fallen, man’s authority. And he that is knowledgeable of God understands that men have failed miserably in exercising the righteous authority of God. Now we see in the Book of Revelation (11:15) how God rescinds the authority of men to rule on earth for the first time since He gave authority to Adam in the Book of Genesis.*

*But until that time in Revelation 11:15, for the sake of preserving some of society, God allow the sword of order in the hand of man’s governing authority; for better or worse, except for His divine intervention, at any time, to preventing the Human race from totally devouring/ destroying itself.*

**Rom 13:1** Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers (*of God*). For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained (*allowed*) of God.

**Rom 13:2** Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

**Rom 13:3** For rulers are not (*suppose to be*) a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

**Rom 13:4** For he (*the governing authority*) is (*suppose to be*) the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he (*the ruler/ authority*) beareth not the sword in vain: for he is (*suppose to be*) the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil.

**Rom 13:5** Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience (*knowing right and wrong*) sake.

**Rom 13:6** For for this cause pay ye tribute (*taxes*) also: for they (*governing authority*) are (*suppose to be*) God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing (*of furthering the good of society, with your tribute/ taxes*).

Rom 13:7 Render therefore to all their (*governing authority*) dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

***Where should the Role of Love Fit in the Affairs, and Societies of Men?***

***Love is pleasing to God to the fulfilling of the Law of Moses, and love demands the following:***

Rom 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Rom 13:9 For this (*love which fulfills the law*), Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if *there be* any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour (*the person next to you; relative or stranger*) as thyself (*This verse summarizes the Ten Commandments. Now, can any truthfully say they have, and can continue to keep, “the law of Moses”. Please recognize that just making the motions, of “the law of Moses” in certain circumstances is not keeping the law; and the breaking of it at any time is broken for all time!*).

Rom 13:10 Love worketh no (*trace of*) ill to his neighbour: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.

***Considering all of the afore stated explanations on love, why would you suppose one should want to fulfill the law? Is it not to please God because of love for Him, which is the first and greatest commandment, namely, “Thou shall have no other gods before (or in place of) Me”? These attributes and character describing love are of Christ Jesus, are they not? You should judge my assessment!***

***Marching orders for the believer***

Rom 13:11 And that, knowing (*recognizing*) the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we (*first*) believed.

Rom 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

Rom 13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering (*sexual immorality, lewdness*) and wantonness (*impurity*), not in strife and envying.

Rom 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

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