

## Romans 13:8~10

Here in this section, Paul speaks to the relationship, we who are of the Church, are to have with our fellow man. He has just spoken to our responsibility to *human government*, now he speaks of our responsibility to *humanity*.

As far as *human government* goes, Paul says we are to fully submit to it in obedience in every way. As *followers of Christ*, we should not be found “*Resisting*” the higher powers, those in authority over us. But rather, knowing that government is a God ordained institution, established by Him, and governed by Him, we are to *fully submit* to it. Offering up to them whatever is required, in complete obedience.

Paul says... <sup>8</sup>*Owe no man any thing*... Many take this to mean, that we are not to borrow money. That we are not to ever owe someone or be in debt to someone. But I just don't see that, especially when considered in the context that it is in. Paul is not talking about loans, or borrowing money, or for that fact, he's not talking about money per say in any real way. It seems more fitting that we see this statement in the scope of what he is trying to get across. He speaks in financial terms, using “*Render*” and “*Dues*” which refer to “*Payments & Debts*.” His point seems to be, that we “*Owe it*” to the government to show them *respect and honor*. Paul's emphasis seems to be that “*pay in full*” what we owe them. May it never be that *we as Christians* be found delinquent in this matter. Whether it be monetarily, such as taxes, or whether its respect and honor to the higher powers, we are to make sure we *render in full* what *is due*.

<sup>8</sup>*Owe no man any thing except to love one another*... The only thing we should be *yet indebted* to... is that of *rendering love* to our fellow man. The way this one is written, this a perpetual indebtedness, a debt we are constantly to pay against but can never pay off. A debt we are indebted to for the rest of our life.

Reason being... Love fulfills the requirement of God's Law...

<sup>8</sup>*Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loves another hath fulfilled the law.*

Here Paul defines what *true obedience* to God's Law is. True obedience to God is “marked” by loving our neighbor as our self. The “*Never ceasing rendering of Love*” is what *fulfills the Law!*

(Vs 8b~10) ...*for he that loves another hath fulfilled the law.* <sup>9</sup>*For this, 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 neighbor as thyself.* <sup>10</sup>*Love works no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

Paul says we can sum up our responsibility to God, concerning our fellow man, in one simple statement...  
*Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself*...

Here, Paul only list five of the Ten Commandments... Which the reason he does so seems to be for the fact that he's speaking about how we are to treat our fellow man. The Ten Commandments are broken down into two categories, 1~4 speak of our relationship with God Himself, while 5~10 speak of our relationship to fellow man. Here, (*with the exception of Honor Father and Mother*), Paul speaks to the way we are to live in conjunction with our fellow man.

And Paul's point is, that's *its not* the keeping of the individual acts listed in the Law that declares us obedient to God, but rather the loving of our neighbor.

We may not be guilty of having ever committed adultery...

- Or having ever killed anyone...
- Or having ever stolen from anyone...
- Or having ever lied on anyone...
- Or having ever coveted what others have...

We may be “*innocent*” of those acts, yet at the same time be “*GUILTY*” of harboring *feelings of hatred* and be *guilty of condemning* our fellow man.

Paul is defining what “*true obedience*” to God’s Law requires... It’s not the “*works of the Law*” that declares us obedient to God, but rather “*Our love for our neighbor.*” We may be innocent of those individual “*ACTS*” and yet not be living in a way that is *pleasing to God*. True obedience to God’s Law; is manifested by “*rendering love*” to our fellow man.

Paul declares, that it is *Love for our fellow man*, that is the “*fulfillment*” of God’s Law...

Beloved, we the church need to be careful not to allow ourselves to become like Israel... Israel misunderstood the Law, and became self-righteous by their *good works* in the law; while at the same time *despised and condemned* those around them who were “*not as righteous*” as they were.

May God help us, the Church, to never walk in “*self-righteousness*” like Israel did...but rather, may we walk before others in *humility and love*. Rather than judging and condemning those dying in sin, may we reach out to them with the same love that Christ has shown to us. Christ was a friend to publicans and sinners.

God forbid, that the “*lost of this world*” get the message, that God hates them, that God doesn’t want anything to do with them...*by our actions towards them.*

All around us, there are those who have obviously transgressed the Laws of God, by committing adultery, by being thieves, liars, etc... But it’s imperative that we understand something. It’s not “*Our place*” to be their Judge, by rendering judgment and condemnation on them. That’s not our place. Our place is to “*Submit*” to the Law, and be “*Doers of the Law*” *by loving our neighbor as our self.* Ours is not to worry about where they stand with God concerning the Law, but our concern is to be where we stand. We should not be concerned with their lives, and how they live it, but rather our lives and how we live it! And Paul says, that is to walk in love towards all men.

Christian, we don’t live a life of obedience, a life that is pleasing in God’s eyes by walking around judging and condemning those around us that are lost in sin! Regardless of the lifestyle they may be living. We must understand, they are blind, deaf and dead in their sins. They are acting like “*lost people*” should act. Rather than be offended or appalled at their actions, it should serve as an indication of the depths of their needs! Rather than distancing ourselves from them and avoiding them, refusing to associate with them, condemning both them and their actions...rather we should be *broken over them*. It ought to crush us, and stir up compassion and pity rather than hate and judgment.

Now, its important to make sure we are clear what Paul is saying, because for those inside the church, the advice of scripture is just the opposite! Though we are not to JUDGE sinners in the world, we are to judge sinners in the church, and discipline those who partake in it and refuse to repent.

<sup>9</sup>*I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: <sup>10</sup>Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. <sup>11</sup>But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a*

*fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. <sup>12</sup>For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? <sup>13</sup>But them that are without God judges. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.*

Paul declares, that inside the church, the advice of scripture is just the opposite! Still we are to show love, but it is the love of correction and discipline. We are to judge the sinful actions of men, because in professing to be a believer, they are no longer ignorant, no longer blind. Christ has raised us up from the dead, to walk in newness of life... So sinners are treated much differently in the church than they are in the world. Paul tells us, that those in the church who are marked by sinful ways are to be dealt with, even so far as to put them out if necessary. And not to have anything to do with them, not to even eat with them... But that is for those who profess Christ...

Here, Paul is talking about those out here that are in the world... They may be in horrific sin, involved in things that we can't fathom... But we need to keep in mind, so were we. They are simply manifesting the NEED they have of Christ. Rather than judging and condemning them in their sin, we are to reach out to them in love. We need to remember that "*the lost of this world*" are under the "*condemnation of God*" and the only hope for them is that they would embrace the same love that changed our lives. They need to come into contact with the love that turned our hearts to God. And the only way they will know of this love, is that we show it too them.