



AUGUST 30, 2020

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Why We Are Going Back to Small Groups **Romans 13:8-14**

LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE:

- I. Governing Authorities have been Established by God (v. 1)
- II. Whoever Resists the Authorities Will Receive Judgment (v. 2)
- III. Rulers Don't Punish Good Conduct but Evil (v. 3)
- IV. The Government is to be God's Servant for Your Good (v. 4)
- V. It is Necessary to be in Subjection to the Authorities (v. 5)
- VI. Christians Pay Taxes because Rulers are Ministers of God (vv. 6-7)

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE:

I. Loving One Another is Fulfilling the Law (vv. 8-10)

- A. We are obligated to _____ each other (v. 8a)
[Ex. 22:25; Psa 15:4-5; Matt. 5:42; Lk. 6:35; Psa. 37:21; Eph. 4:2;
1 Cor. 13:4-7; Jn. 15:13; 1 Pet. 1:22]
- B. We are obligated to _____ the law (vv. 8b-10)
[Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:39]

II. Knowing the Time is Renewing Your Focus in Life (vv. 11-12)

- A. _____ is of the essence (v. 11)
[Eph. 5:14; 1 Thes. 5:6]
- B. _____ off the darkness and put on the light (v. 12)
[Jn. 9:4; Col 3:8-9; Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Thes 5:8; Eph. 6:11-17]

III. Walking Properly is Putting on the Lord Jesus Christ (vv. 13-14)

- A. Put off sins that _____ (v. 13)
[Gal. 5:21; 1 Pet. 4:3; Jms. 3:14]
- B. Put on Christ who _____ (v. 14)
[Gal. 3:27; Eph. 4:22-24; Gal. 5:16]

TAKE HOME

- When is civil disobedience necessary? When is it a **choice**?
- Is it more important to obey the government or **obey** God?
- How does Romans 13 impact when, how, and **why** we are doing small groups?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placritachurch.com.

1. Read Romans 13:1-4. Summarize this passage in the context of last week’s message.

2. Read Romans 13:5-7. What are the two reasons given in verse 5 of why we obey the government when the government is functioning in accordance with its God-given authority? Why do we pay taxes? (Matt. 22:17-21)

3. Read Romans 5:8. What do we owe each other? (Eph. 4:2; 1 Cor. 13:4-7; Jn. 15:13; 1 Pet. 1:22) In what way is this law superior to certain government laws?

4. Read Romans 5:9-10. How does obeying these commandments show your love for your neighbor? (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:39) Do you believe you can adequately carry out the spirit of loving one another in our present quarantine situation? Why or why not?

5. Please discuss the whole mask/no mask and meeting inside/outside challenges. Are you able to love those who may land in a different area than you do?

6. Read Romans 13:11-12. How does knowing the time encourage you to renew your focus in putting on the armor of light? (Jn. 9:4; Col. 3:8-9; Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Thes 5:8; Eph. 6:11-17)

7. Read Romans 13:13-14. What are these verses talking about? How can being a part of a small group help you accomplish these exhortations?

8. Read the take home questions. Which one challenges you or encouraged you the most? How will you live differently this week in light of what you learned from this passage?

“Expressing divine love is a Christian’s constant responsibility, but is especially crucial in understanding the present time.”

- The Bible Knowledge Commentary