

Godliness and Government (Romans 12:9–13:7)

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MAINTAINING GODLY CHARACTER (12:9-13)

9 Love *should be* without hypocrisy. *We should* hate what is evil, cleave to what is good.

10 In regard to brotherly love, *have* strong affection for one another, in regard to honor, lead one another's way *to it*;

11 in regard to diligence, *we should* not be lazy; in regard to *our* spirit, *we should be* zealous; in regard to the Lord; *we should* do slave-service;

12 In regard to hope, *we should* rejoice; with regard to affliction, *we should* endure; in regard to prayer, we should persevere;

13 in regard to the needs of the saints, *we should* share with them. Pursue hospitality.

MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONSHIPS (12:14-21)

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

16 Have the same aspirations for each other. Do not aspire to high things, but associate with humble *people*. Do not become wise in your own sight.

17 Repay no one with evil in return for evil. Make provision for things *that are* good in the sight of all men.

18 If possible, on your part, be at peace with all men.

19 Do not take revenge for yourselves, beloved, but leave room for wrath; since it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. [Deuteronomy 32:35]

20 So "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For by doing this you will heap coals of fire on his head." [Proverbs 25:21-22]

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

SUBMITTING TO AUTHORITY (13:1-7)

1 Let every person submit to the governing authorities. For there is no authority if *it is* not *bestowed* by God, and the present authorities are established by God.

2 Therefore the person who resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist *it* will receive judgment for themselves.

3 For rulers do not cause fear about good works, but about evil works. Now do you wish not to be afraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from it.

4 In fact he is God's servant to you to *produce* what is good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; because he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's servant, an avenger to *bring* wrath on the person who does evil.

5 Consequently it is necessary to submit, not only because of the wrath but also because of *one's* conscience.

6 For this reason also, pay taxes, since they are God's ministers who are devoted to this very thing.

7 Therefore render to all what they are owed: a tax to whom *one owes* the tax, customs duty to whom *one owes* the customs duty, respect to whom *one owes* respect, honor to whom *one owes* honor.

CONCLUSION

I.	Introduction	1:1-15
II.	Thematic Statement	1:16-17
III.	Body of the Epistle	1:18-15:13
	A. God's Displeasure with Humanity	1:18-3:20
	B. The Unrighteous Can Obtain Righteousness	3:21-5:11
	C. The Righteous by Faith Can Live Victoriously	5:12-8:39
	D. God's Faithfulness Will Deliver Israel	9:1-11:36
	E. God's Will in the Lives of the Delivered	12:1-15:13
IV.	Conclusion	15:14-16:20
V.	Postscript and Benediction	16:21-24