

Romans 13 Study Guide

From *A Graceful Uprising* Study Guide

Key Concepts

- The power to reshape society is not primarily through politics but by communicating and displaying the gospel to others.
- By being submissive to the government (even corrupt ones), Christians guard their witness before unbelievers.
- Christianity can thrive in any political climate because Jesus' kingdom is not of this world.
- More than just being gospel messengers, we must be gospel neighbors who demonstrate grace by loving people.

Explore the Text

1. God expects Christians to be subject to their governing authorities (v. 1). Do you find this easy or difficult to do? Why?
2. Why do you think Paul spends so much time (vv. 1-7) emphasizing that Christians should be in submission to government?
3. Love is a debt that we owe others that we can never pay off (v. 8). Why would Paul say that we owe a debt of love toward everyone we encounter?
4. Echoing Jesus, Paul reminds us that the law is all about loving your neighbor as yourself (v. 9). In practical terms, what does this look like?

Transform Your Life

1. Compare your involvement and thoughts about politics with your involvement and thoughts about evangelism. How do the two compare?
2. Describe a time when you have seen a powerful example of someone putting the gospel on display by their acts of sacrificial service of others.
3. What could you do this week to move from being a stranger or an acquaintance with someone to being a gospel-neighbor?
4. When have you seen a behavior or idea become contagious among a group of people? What made it happen?