

“Freedom and Submission”
Romans 13:1-14

Introduction

1. Happy Independence Day!
2. Give some background for the message “Freedom and Submission” from Rom. 13:1-14
3. Remind you that Submission is placing ourselves under the rank of another or arranging our lives under the rank or authority of another.
4. Freedom is a precious commodity that is taken for granted by many, and by too many they want to exercise their freedom with no barriers, no parameters, no restraints.
5. This is not possible.
 - Science has parameters, boundaries.
 - Culture has parameters – all sub cultures development their own parameters or rules.
 - Organizations have parameters.
 - There is nothing that does not have parameters.
 - Freedom must have parameters or the freedom known would cease to be.
6. **SLIDE 1** Prov. 29:18
 - a. No vision – “prophetic vision” or “revelation”
 - b. The people cast off restraint – “the people are let loose”
 - Restraint – “to loosen; to expose; uncovered as to be made naked – nothing to cover what is inside.
 - The people – a nation; country; congregation of people as in the church
 - c. But blessed is he, the keeper of the law.
7. **SLIDE 2** Hosea 4:1-3 (v2) – The nation breaks all restraints and destroys
8. **SLIDES 3-4** 2 Thess. 2:6-10
 - a. v 6 – Lawlessness is being restrained in its development
 - b. v 7 – lit. “the restrainer” – the restraining one
 - Holy Spirit
 - Number of persons presenting the same characteristics – Christians
 - c. Freedom has its parameters.
 - d. Lawlessness and deception want no parameters.
 - e. Lawlessness and deception destroy.
 - f. There must be parameters with freedom or freedom will cease to exist.
9. “Freedom and Submission” – Rom. 13:1-14

I. Live under Man’s Authority (vv 1-7)

- A. v 1
 1. Let everyone be subject to authority – order yourselves under the rank of another
 2. Higher Authority – authority in the sense of ability
 - a. force; competency
 - b. Higher because we have delegated its influence – they are our chosen officials
- B. v 2
 1. To Resist authority is to RESIST GOD
 - a. If that authority leads us away from God – fight it.
 - b. Choose your battles = live for God and change the powers that be

2. **SLIDES 6-7** Craig S. Keener: *The IVP Bible Background Commentary of the NT* “Although some Palestinian Jews already advocated the revolt against Rome that would take place in little more than a decade, other Palestinian Jews reportedly swore to nonresistance, believing that God had ordained all civil authorities (in the Old Testament, cf. Is 45:1; Jer 25:9; Dan 4:32). Jews in Rome certainly upheld this position and would have been embarrassed by any other. Judaism generally believed in submission (which is a matter of nonresistance or nonviolence, not always of obedience), unless it involved a conflict with obeying ‘God’s law. The Old Testament clearly taught God’s sovereignty over earthly rulers (Prov 16:10; 21:1).”
 3. If you don’t like something – change it
 - a. Patiently
 - b. Purposefully
 - c. Persistently
- C. What about these rulers?
1. vv 3-5 – Rulers are for our good – **SLIDE 8**
 - a. To Keep Order
 - b. To Keep Restraint – Vine says, “Constituted Governments are a restraining influence.”
 2. vv 6-7 – Rulers are to be given all their due – **SLIDE 9**
 - a. To the One due Tax – a tax == In the day this was written the Federal Government (Empire) assessed about a 1% property tax and a head tax on persons.
 - b. To the One due Tribute – a tribute == Local Provinces or like our states, counties, and cities – levy or customs
 - c. Interject
 - Taxes financed roads and helped the government to run
 - Taxes supported the Roman Armies
 - Taxes supported the Temples devoted to the worship of the Emperor
 - d. To the One due Fear – *phobon* – not reverential fear as in worship to God = it is fear as in afraid or alarm
 - e. To the One due Honor give honor – officials expected and received honor because of their position – Honoring others is lacking in today’s society.
- D. Live under man’s authority

II. Live under God’s Authority (vv 8-10) **SLIDE 10**

- A. Submission to God – placing ourselves/arranging ourselves under His authority
- B. Submission to God and His Word because of Love and through Love
- C. v 8 – Owe nothing but Love ===== Love fulfills the Law
- D. v 9 – Love calls for Restraint
 1. True love is freeing.
 2. True love has parameters
 - a. Do not commit adultery
 - Physically or mentally
 - Guard your heart and eyes
 - Man is aggressive – guard the aggression – set the parameters

- b. Do not murder – with your hand, tongue or action
 - Guard your heart
 - Set the parameters according to God’s Word
 - c. Do not steal
 - d. Do not bear false witness – do not lie about another
 - Truth tempered with love
 - Parameters of Truth set within God’s Boundaries of Kindness and Grace
 - e. Do not covet
 - f. Love your neighbor as yourself
- E. v 10 – Love is the fulfillment of the Law.
1. Love does not wrong or harm to your neighbor.
 2. Love is the fulfillment of the Law.
 3. Love fulfills us under God’s authority.
- F. Thirdly – How do we live under authority?

III. How do we live under the authority of others and of God? (vv 11-14)

- A. Put on Christ – NOW – vv 11-12 **SLIDE 11**
1. Put Christ on by PUTTING CHRIST IN = Receive Him as Lord and Saviour
 2. Now – don’t wait – do it now
- B. Repent, Return, and Renew – vv 13-14 **SLIDE 12**
1. Live in Him – Repent and Return – v 13
 - a. Not in Revelry – carousing
 - b. Not in Drunkenness – drinking
 - c. Not in Lewdness – cohabitation
 - d. Not in Lust – lustful acts
 - e. Not in Strife – fighting
 - f. Not in Envy – jealousy
 - g. All this describes what the Greeks would do many times much of the night – wild parties, drunken orgies, and pre-marital sex – does this sound like our society?
 - h. Repent
 2. Live Fully in Christ – v 14
 - a. Put in Christ – Put on the Lord = Supreme Authority
 - b. Put out the Flesh
 - c. Return to Christ as Lord
 - d. Renew your mind and thinking – out of the mind comes the issues of life
 - e. **CLICK** *The Interlinear Bible* – “Do not take thought beforehand for the lusts of the flesh”

Conclusion

Do you want to be really free? Come to Christ and place yourself under His Authority and Life