

Romans 13

Play song clip of Strangers in the Night: Look at 13:12-13

13:1 opens a whole can of worms theologically and tempts us to immediately start intellectualizing solutions to the problems it causes before even absorbing the bible as the truth it is. Hitler - Pharaoh - Our government
But we are not going to do that.

We are going to look at the command, they why, and the how.

We are going to focus on the incredible necessity of the why...(hopefully your heart will break for the why)

And the glorious power of the how...(hopefully you will be empowered and encouraged by the how)

And we are going to learn how to walk it out and live it out to the glory of God.

Because the root of this issue has to do with a lot more than obeying authority. It has to do with the needs of mankind, the glory of Jesus, and the responsibility of every Christian.

We need to look at this passage in context: look at 12 and 14.

The continuing idea here is loving others regardless of our pride, who we think our enemies are, or what we think is right or wrong.

read 13:1-2, 6-7

compare our government to Rome.

keeping in mind the context of this passage, can you start to guess at the why?
Read 8-10

The why is “for the benefit of people who God so loved He gave Jesus”. They why is for LOVE. For the love of those God loves.

What is the meaning of life for Christians? Read Luke 19:11-22a

Consider Paul and in prison Acts 16:22-30

Matt 5:11-12 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things about you falsely on account of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad because your reward is great in heaven, for they persecuted the prophets before you in the same way. Next verse is salt of the earth and light of the world.

So, love is the why. What's the how? Part of the answer is in what we've already read in Romans 13:8

We must understand our debt of love.

Jer 2:33 "How you plot and scheme to win your lovers.

Even an experienced prostitute could learn from you!

Isaiah 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

We love because he first loved us. How can we not love others when we realize the extent to which He loves us?

There are more hints at the how in the rest of Rom 13.

Read the rest of Romans 13 (11-14)

Urgency. Time is running out. Wheat and tares. Tares go to the fire.

Wake up!

Asaph in Psalm 73 was under the illusion that this age is everything until he WOKE UP!

The disciples were under the illusion that everything would go on as it had.

Matt 26:40-41 40Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you watch with me even one hour?41Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!"

There is a pro and a con to time being short. The con is that some will perish. They are our responsibility.

The pro is that we have confidence in the salvation that is to come. We will have Jesus! Our HOPE!

The how is “by “recognizing our HOPE”.

In conclusion:

Do everything without arguing and complaining so that you may become blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and depraved generation in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of truth.

Do you think Joseph could have risen to power from the prison cell if he grumbled and complained?

Do it for the love of those who God loves.

Recognize that your sins are severe! But His grace is more severe! His love is bigger!

Wake up and don't think this is all there is to life!

Your salvation is near! Put on the shining armor of right living!

Remember Him who while being reviled, did not revile in return; while suffering, uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;

AND BE STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT