

Romans 13-16

Walking in Righteousness

Romans 13-16

- We are now Righteous before God, justified by Faith in Christ.
- This is our Salvation, and it is guaranteed by Christ's completed work on the cross.
- How should we therefore Walk in Righteousness?

How should we live?

- Rom 13 – in relation to the Government
- Rom 14 – Don’t sweat the small stuff!
- Rom 15 – Sweat the big stuff!
- Rom 15-16 - Personal

Rom 13
In Relation to Government

- All authority, even evil, are established by God.
- Is there any time we should resist the Government?
- The Jewish Sanhedrin forbade the apostles from preaching Jesus.
- Acts 5:29 *We must obey God rather than men.*
- So obey Government unless it requires us to disobey God.

Rom 13
Civil Disobedience

- Illegal Home Churches in China
- Peaceful protests against legal abortion
- Legally resisting atheistic initiatives, such as those of Freedom From Religion Foundation.
- Rescuing Jews in Nazi Germany.

Rom 13
Civil Disobedience



Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Rom 13
Civil Disobedience

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor whose opposition to Hitler cost him his life.
- Publically criticized Nazi regime for euthanasia and persecution of Jews.
- Became leader of a movement opposing the government approved churches, affirming God's love for the Jews.
- Dietrich worked with secret rescue organizations to help Jews escape Nazi Germany.
- Dietrich was murdered on Apr 9, 1945. Less than one month later, Hitler committed suicide on April 30, and WW II ended on Sept 2.

Rom 13
Civil Disobedience



Corrie Ten Boom

Rom 13
Civil Disobedience

- Corrie Ten Boom was a Christian who worked with her father Casper Ten Boom and sister Betsie Ten Boom to help many Jews escape Nazi Germany.
- She was arrested and sent with her sister to Ravensbruck Concentration Camp.
- Shared hope in God with other prisoners. She published her story in the book *The Hiding Place.*

Politically Incorrect!



Judge Tammy Temp hugs defendant Amber Guyger

Rom 13
Politically Incorrectness!

- Texas police officer Amber Guyger mistakenly shot 26 year old Botham Jean on Sept 6 2018.
- She was charged with murder, and sentenced to ten years.
- She was deeply remorseful for her horrible mistake.
- Here Judge Tammy Kemp gave her a politically incorrect hug to comfort her.
- Botham Jean's brother Brandt publically forgave her.
- He also gave her a hug.

Rom 13
Respect for Government

- Pay all due taxes
- Tax evasion is illegal, but tax avoidance is legal!
- Justice Learned Hand said "*Any one may so arrange his affairs that his taxes shall be as low as possible … nobody owes any public duty to pay more than the law demands*"
- Reverence Authority
- Honor Authority
- For example, obey traffic laws while driving!

Rom 13
With Fellow Citizens

- Rom 13:8 encourages us to avoid debt.
- But it is not a command. Some debt, such as a manageable home loan, car loan or an educational loan, is necessary.
- Other debt, such as credit card expenses that you can pay off every month, is convenient.
- Love our neighbors as ourselves. Behave fairly and with kindness to others.

Rom 13
With Fellow Citizens

- Matthew 5:42 *Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.*
- But be wise in your giving. Sometimes, guidance and prayer are more needed than money.
- Seek council about lending or borrowing. Prov 11:14 says *Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in an abundance of counselors there is victory.*
- Seek the Lord's wisdom. James 1:5 says *But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

Rom 14
Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff!

- These are the debatable behaviors, where there is no Biblical mandate.
- The following are *not debatable behaviors*
  - 1 Thess 4:3 Flee *sexual immorality*
  - Eph 5:3 … *greed* must not be even named among you
  - 1 Cor 6:9 Against *idolatry, adultery, fornication, effeminate behavior, homosexual lifestyle*

Rom 14
Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff!

- The following *are* debatable behaviors, where there is no Biblical mandate.
  - Various foods and drinks.
  - Days to gather to worship.
  - Some believers watch movies, others don’t.
  - Some recycle, others don’t care.
  - Some play cards, others don’t.

Rom 14
Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff!

- Would you go to a friend’s Civil wedding?
- Would you go to a friend’s Jewish wedding?
- Would you go to a friend’s Catholic wedding?
- Would you go to a friend’s Hindu wedding?
- Would you go to a friend’s gay wedding?
- How should we show love to our unbelieving friends?

Rom 14
Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff!

- The Bible gives no answers to questions like these! We have Christian Liberty!
- Each should be fully convinced in his own mind.
- And not judge another believer.
- Yet respect the other believer. If a brother’s faith is harmed by your exercise of your liberty, then restrain yourself.
- Rom 14:21 *It is good to not eat meat, or drink wine, if it causes your brother to stumble.*

Rom 15
Sweat the Big Stuff!

- Imitate Christ!
- Do not please ourselves. Instead support other believers … that is to say enable them to imitate Christ.
- *Accept* one another.
- Be of the same mind with other believers.
- With *one accord* Glorify God
- Rom 15:13 *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Rom 15-16
Personal

- Paul affirms his calling to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles.
- So also, we should be faithful when we have the opportunity to share the Gospel with unbelievers.
- Paul ministered to the believers.
- So also, we should minister to believers.

Rom 15-16
Personal

- Paul expressed gratitude to fellow believers who ministered to him.
- So also, we should be grateful to those who minister to us.
- Paul warns the Romans against those who cause dissensions and hindrances.
- So also we should be alert to those in our fellowship who would be divisive.

Rom 15-16
Personal

- Paul rejoices over the believers in Rome
- Let us also rejoice in our fellow believers.
- He exhorts them to be wise in what is good.
- And innocent (but not ignorant!) of evil.

Rom 15-16
Personal

- Paul assures them that God would soon crush Satan under their feet.
- He expresses confidence that God would establish them.
- So we can also be sure that God will establish us.

Rom 15-16
Benediction

- Paul praises and thanks God who establishes the Romans!
- Let us praise and thank God who establishes the believers at Hillview!
- Possibly the greatest verse in the Bible ☺ ☺
  Jude 24-25 *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time, and now, and forever. Amen.*