

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Application of Grace: Citizenships
Romans 13

Last time...what grace looks like in the life of a follower of Jesus Christ

This time...in Rom 13, the application of grace in our lives continues

1. Citizens of the kingdoms of man: How we function in a society ruled by a civil government (v1-7)
2. Citizens of the kingdom of God: An urgent call to the Body of Christ (v8-14)

First: citizenship responsibilities in the kingdoms of man

v1-7

v1 We, without exception, are instructed by our King to obey the civil governments ruling the society in which we live

The governments have been put there...by our King...for social order

For without order there is chaos wherein only confusion flourishes, to the harm of all people

And God is not the author/source of confusion, Satan is

The civil governments are

- of God...from (Source/Originator) and before (in front of, accountable to)

- Gen 9:5-6

- Acts 17:24-27

- of God...underneath

- Ps 47:2

For the LORD most high *is* terrible (to be feared and revered); *he is* a great King over all the earth. he removeth kings, and setteth up kings

- Dan 2:21

- Dan 4:17

This matter *is* by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

- Zech 14:9

And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

All governments of man are

1. from
2. before
3. beneath

the God of all the earth

v2-3 Therefore, to resist the civil government the King of all the earth installed is to resist the ordinance/institution of God

And resistance to God comes with a legal judgment e.g. the Jan 6 rioters

When Paul was inspired to record these words of God, who was the civil authority?

The Roman Empire, a cruel and ruthless and intolerant and oppressive and wicked and perverse governor

Jesus Christ was not sent by the Father to take on the Roman Empire

He taught His followers to go the 2nd mile if a Roman soldier forced them to carry his gear for a mile

He taught His disciples to pray...Matt 6:9-13

He set the priority for His disciples...Matt 6:33a

He did not rebel against the authority of Rome invested in Pilate, keeping the dominions separate until the Father's time...John 18:36

My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Even after to being unjustly scourged, Jesus did not rebel against Pilate

John 19:10-11

The Creator put civil government in place for a purpose: Law and order, safe boundaries for the benefit of the people living in their jurisdictions

He did not put civil government in place and invest them with the power to maintain law and order to strike fear in the hearts of law-abiding citizens, but to comfort them with peace and safety

The ones who are to fear the civil government are the lawless and criminal elements of society

So...do good...be Christ-like and law-abiding citizens

Pray for the civil government leaders

1 Tim 2:1-3

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

Submit to the God-ordained authority set over you for your good

1 Peter 2:13-17

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of

God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using *your* liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

Live free...as defined by God

John 8:31-32

2 Cor 3:17b

where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

To Whom are the people accountable to obey the civil government?

God their Creator

v4

The civil governor/government is the minister/servant/waiter

- of God...God's servant
- for good...God's will
- to carry out justice and to warn/deter/punish the wicked/lawless/rebellious

But if you oppose the government and do evil/wrong

- be afraid
- the government does not have the power of judicial punishment without reason

Example in Israel's history: Neb and the Babylonians

("the worst of the heathen" in Ezk 7:24)

Wave 1 and Wave 2 into captivity: for their good

The good figs in Jer 24:4-7

Wave 3 into captivity: for their calamity

The evil figs in Jer 24:8-10

To Whom is the minister/servant of God accountable if it rules contrary to God's will and

- seeks not order but confusion?
- pursues evil and not good?
- rules with injustice rather than justice?

God Who instituted is and established it

The civil government is not accountable to the people, but to God

1 Sam 2:10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed (Kok and Lol)

Ps 82:8 Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations.

The nations/governments are God's domain

The people are to live in God's domain obeying His minister the governor

Both the governments and the people are accountable to God

- v5 Therefore, it is imperative for citizens of a society to obey the civil authority
- out of fear/respect of the ordained power it has been given by God to maintain law and order
 - to be in one accord with and submissive to the Lord God Almighty

- v6-7 Submission and obedience to God's public servants includes...
- paying our taxes, which are determined and zealously collected by the government
 - giving what the government is owed
 - taxes of every conceivable type
 - customs/tariffs/levies on trade
 - fear/respect
 - honor

All part of the price to be paid for not wanting to be governed by God as King

1 Sam 8:4-22

Application

How does this passage of Scripture apply to us followers of Jesus Christ in USA today in the Days of Noah and the Days of Lot (times of violence and confusion before the judgments of God)?

Are the children of God in USA

governed by a perverse and wicked and corrupt ruling elite class comprised of

- all levels of Government
- the Media
- Corporate Board rooms
- University Board rooms

that is

- in hot and relentless pursuit of power and money
- boldly proclaiming Is 5:20 in policies and court decisions

I think so...nothing new under the sun!

Are the children of God in USA

to pray for their leaders who serve themselves rather than the people?

Yes

Are the children of God in USA

accountable to God to be law-abiding citizens when lawlessness abounds?

- Defund the Police, Antifa, BLM, etc
- criminal behavior is rewarded rather than deterred
- liberal George Soros-paid for DAs who set free vs prosecute criminals
- DoJ, FBI, IRS as political weapons ala KGB, Security Police in Egypt, etc
- injustices of double standards (haves vs have nots)

Yes

Are the children of God in USA

to pay their taxes to the Government even if

- “Government by the people and for the people” is now just a platitude
- inflation that cripples the economy and hurts families is intentional/designed
- the purpose of the tax is the transfer of wealth from the working people to the wealthy ruling elite class?

Yes

Are the children of God in USA, an unravelling nation in a moral death spiral,

- the murder of innocent children in their mother’s wombs
 - the confusing and mutilating children (transgender surgeries)
 - great swelling pride in being perverse
- to overcome evil with good (by being the Voice of God and ambassadors of Christ)?

Yes

We...the followers of Jesus Christ, the Church, the Body of Christ, the Bride of Christ...

serve the King of all the earth Who has

- purchased us with His own blood, we are not our own
- taken us out of the darkness of the world and brought us into the Light of His kingdom
- told us we are in the world but not of the world

We are His ambassadors in this nation

We are

- not to be agents of disorderliness, for God is the God of order
- agents of The Next World Order – the Kingdom of God, of which we are citizens (The New World Order is of no concern for us)
- to live at peace where He has put us
- to engage the society with our worldview (the Gospel, the Word of God)
- watch, act like Christ, be strong, and let all things be done with God’s love

When the State/civil authority/ruling elite persecutes the children of God, God's children

- bear it...just as Jesus did; God allows His children to be imprisoned
- flee...like Joseph and Mary, as led by the Spirit of God
- go underground...like Peter after "his" jail break (Acts 12:17)
- take the Gospel elsewhere...Acts 1:8
- flourish...like Israel in Egypt, Christians in Communist China and Islamic Iran

but they do not start insurrections against the civil authority because

- the Government is God's business/domain
- the Church's business is seeking and saving the lost...individuals, not governments

Note: When the Church was the civil government/authority:

- The Holy Roman Empire
- The Middle Ages

As of yet, the civil government in this nation has not prohibited the Church from doing its business of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Gospel of Grace

So we are to live peaceably here, going about our business and not the world's business...

- to do what we are called to do
- to not to try to do what is only God's to do

But should the day come that the Government outlaws the Gospel or prohibits us from preaching the Gospel, nothing changes...we continue about our business in God's kingdom

Ex 1:15-21

Acts 4:21-26

Acts 5:17-33, 40-42

Ps 2...God's warning to the governments that are accountable to Him

Second: citizenship responsibilities in the kingdom of God

v8-10 Amongst ourselves and as dual citizens, Love rules supreme

As members of the Body of Christ and citizens in the kingdom of God,

- our "Constitution" is founded on one word: Love...
God's Self-last and Self-less love
- our Royal Law is to Love our neighbor as ourselves

1 John 4:16-21

There is neither fear nor obligation in God's perfect love, it is a gift received and shared
Love seeks the good of others, even at the expense of Self

Love does NOT injure or harm anyone

Love is the

- bottom Line
- the Cliff Notes
- the summation
- the fulfillment/completion

of the Law of God

Love is the fuel that stirs and moves us

v11 And moved, knowing the time/season
just as 1 Chron 12:32
in these Days of Noah and Days of Lot
in the days before the DoL (Matt 24, Mark 13, Luke 21)

Matt 24:1-8

Luke 21:28

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Luke 21:36

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Ezk 38-39, when

- USA is weak, of no real consequence on the world scene
- The God of Israel will magnify Himself
- Israel and all nations will know the God of Israel is the Lord

it is high time...the time is NOW for the children of God
to awake out of sleep...out of spiritual stupor, complacency, laziness, lethargy,
indifference, fearfulness
for now is our salvation...rescue, deliverance out of this world
nearer than...ever!

v12-14 The night...time of darkness on earth...is almost over, the fashion of the world is
passing away
The day...Son Rise (Ps 82:8, Ps 2), the DoL...is oh so near

Therefore, let us

1. Cast off the works of darkness...the works of the flesh and the world
2. Put on the armor of light...the works of the Spirit, the full armor of God
3. Walk/Live honestly/decently (and orderly)...rather than like the world, having NO restraint of the sin nature
 - rioting...carousing, "painting the town red" as it were
 - drunkenness
 - chambering...sinful cohabitation
 - wantonness...totally given over to the lusts of the flesh
 - strife and envying...where there is confusion and every evil work

4. Put on Jesus Christ our Lord...be Christ-like, bearing His Light,
making no provision/allowance/self-justification to (attempt to) fulfill the
(insatiable) lusts of the flesh

It is time to stand out from the world, not blend in with the world

It is time to “fight Amalek”

Ex 17:13-16

We have victory over the flesh only by Jesus Christ, the Man of War (Ex 15:3)

As soldiers in the Lord’s Army, we fight the good fight of faith under His
banner/flag

The battle...within AND without...belongs to the Lord

Gal 5:16-17

Rom 7:24-25

Application/Exhortation

In these Days of Noah and the Days of Lot when 2 Tim 3:12-13 and 2 Peter 3:5a,

Who needs to wake up?!

- Civil Governments of the world or the Body of Christ?
- Unbelievers or believers?

Who and how do we fight?

Eph 6:12 we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities,
against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world,
against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

2 Cor 10:3-4 though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the
weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to
the pulling down of strong holds;)

Under Whose banner/flag do we fight?

The Lord’s or USA’s?