

Romans 13 Citizens of Heaven and Earth

I. Gospel of the Righteousness of God

Jesus is the explanation of the unseen Father (Person & Work)

Jn 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known..

NT epistles are the explanation of the Person & Work of Christ

Eph 3:8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this **grace** was given, to **preach** to the Gentiles the **unsearchable riches of Christ**, [slide 1]

9 and to **bring to light** for everyone what is the **plan of the mystery hidden for ages** in God, who created all things,

Christians (the Church) are the explanation of the Gospel.

2Cor 3.2-3 (MSSG) ... Your very lives are **a letter that anyone can read** by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it—not with ink, but with God's living Spirit; not chiseled into stone, but carved into human lives...

A. Rom 1-11 Theology of Salvation

B. Rom 9-11 The Israel Issue –

C. Rom 12-16 Transformation: Full Devotion

D. Rom 12 Transformational Love in all Relations

Engagement precedes influence.

Pray. Think. Vote.

Don't be lazy!

II. Love, Authority, and the Future

A. In Relation to Authority – Fear and Wrath

Rom 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. **3** For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,

[slide 2]

4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

B. In Relation to Authority — Conscience & Taxes

Ro 13:4 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone **5** Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. **6** For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. **7** Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

III. Navigating Citizenship in this World

A. Love is the Center

Ro 13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. **9** For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **10** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

B. Living in Expectation

13:11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

C. Love-Centered Citizenship & Imperfect Gove.

1 Let every person be **subject** to the governing authorities. For there is **no authority except from God**, and those that exist have been **instituted** by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and **those who resist** will incur **judgment**. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

1. Submission v. Obedience — honoring the arrangement
2. Authority is from God

Daniel 4:17 ... the **Most High rules the kingdom of men** and **gives it to whom he will** and **sets over it** the lowliest of men.'

3. No fear? Do Good avoiding Judgment Terror Wrath
4. Norms and Deviations of Authority

Paul is presenting the norm, ... the state ... fulfilling the ideal for government, – punishing evil and rewarding or encouraging good...

Pro 29:2 When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.

At the very least, under circumstances involving a collapse of justice, the Christian community is obliged to voice its criticism of the state's failure, pointing out the deviation from

the divinely ordained pattern. **Subjection to the state is not to be confused with unthinking, blind, docile conformity.**

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men....⁴⁰ and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and **charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus**, and let them go. ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴² And **every day**, in the temple and from house to house, they **did not cease** teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

IV. Impartation: Skill (חָכְמָה *hokma*) in Love’s Warfare

Love aims for Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happy-Blessedness

Our status: *Imago Dei*?

- Image of God is not an *ability* but a *status* we bear from conception until death.
- Image of God sees all human life as sacred.
- No room for racism, injustice, abuse of power (at home, work, government).
- The attribute of freedom means God’s children can choose to rebel.

Our Response: *In Love*

- ***Pray for America***
- ***Vote this November***
- ***Stand for Biblical Truth***

1. Saving Babies in the Womb

THE PRO-ABORTION LOBBY IS FIGHTING TO:

- Erase state-level protections for the unborn.
- Ensure taxpayer funding for abortion.

- Bypass laws in pro-life states in order to distribute chemical abortion drugs through the mail.

Will you uphold the dignity of every human life?

2. Protect Our Children from Indoctrination

The Far-left is seeking to:

- Promote and teach Critical Race Theory to children.
- Expose children to explicit sexual content and gender identity ideology as early as kindergarten.
- Undermine parents' right to determine what their children are taught in the classroom.

Will you stand for the sake of our children?

3. Supporting God's Design

LGBTQ activists are seeking to:

- Subject children to experimental gender transition procedures.
- Allow biological males to compete in women's sports and use women's bathrooms and locker rooms.
- Push a radical gender identity ideology in public schools and our military.

Will you speak truth regarding God's design for men and women?

4. Safeguarding Parental Rights

THE FAR LEFT IS WORKING TO:

- Call parents who care about their children's education "domestic terrorists" and put them on the FBI watch list.
- Force parents to affirm their child's gender identity and sexual orientation or else risk losing custody.
- Allow children to get abortions without parental consent.

Will you support the God-given right of parents to protect their children?

5. Upholding Natural Marriage

LGBTQ ACTIVISTS ARE SEEKING TO:

- Force the celebration of LGBTQ lifestyles on the American public.
- Expand the federal definition of marriage to include same-sex couples.
- Indoctrinate children into radical sexual ideologies through education and the media.

Will you boldly stand for what God's word says about marriage & sexuality?

6. Judicial Integrity

THE FAR LEFT IS SEEKING TO TRANSFORM OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM BY:

- Packing the court with activist judges who disregard the U.S. Constitution.
- Appointing judges and justices who support the faulty legal reasoning of *Roe* and *Obergefell*.
- Undermining the First Amendment at the expense of people of faith.

Will you work to ensure our courts are filled with judges who uphold the Constitution?

In all these things, we are MORE than Conquerors — We are liberators!

[2Cor 3.2-3 \(MSSG\)](#) ... Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it—not with ink, but with God's living Spirit; not chiseled into stone, but carved into human lives...

[Acts 4:29](#) And **now**, Lord, **look** upon their threats and **grant** to your servants to **continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30** while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace; The mountains and the hills

Shall break forth into singing before you,
And all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.

PRAYER — **BOLDNESS** w **MERCY** **POWER** w **LOVE**