

# Romans

## Chapter 13

### The Believer and the Government

- We have been exploring the practical steps of living and interacting with fellow believers in the body of Christ in **Romans Chapter 12**.
- Here in **Romans Chapter 13**, Paul addressed the believer's conduct with the governing authorities over man.
- The believer doesn't get to choose which form of government that he is born into but should understand the role that God has given to the state in relationship with man.
- The king's heart is a stream of water in the **hand** of the LORD; he **turns it wherever he will.**"-Proverbs 21:1

- At the time that Paul is writing his letter to the Romans Nero was the Emperor and the form of government was Caesar worship.
- It was not a democracy and was not a special friend to believers and yet Paul still saw it as a lawful authority.
- “Remember your Savior suffered under Pontius Pilate, one of the worst Roman governors Judea ever had; and Paul under Nero, the worst Roman Emperor. And neither our Lord nor His Apostle **denied** or **reviled** the ‘authority!’”- Newell, William
- The question is: how then shall we think of ourselves as believing citizens; or putting it another way how do we live as citizens to a government in a fallen world?

## Forms of Government

- In trying to identify and define governments there is a lot over-lapping within each form of governing authority and this list is in no way exhaustive.
- I have adapted this list from several different resources:
- **Theocracy**: Government by **divine guidance** and the only perfect government is when **Jesus reigns** upon His throne.
- “Jesus answered, “My kingdom is **not** of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But **my kingdom is not from the world.**”-John 18:36

- “The kingdom of the world **has become** the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”- **Revelation 11:15b**
- “We must not confuse the Kingdom of God with our country.-Schaffer, Francis
- We should be like Abraham, “looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose **designer** and **builder** is God”.- **Hebrews 11:10**
- **Erastianism**: The doctrine that believes that the State is superior to the Church.
- The government controls all matters of the church as in Germany during the reign of National Socialism under Hitler.

- **Autocracy**: A system of government where absolute power over a state and is focused in the hands of one person.
- One person dictates the way in which people should live: Caesar, Islam, Ayatollahs, Imams, and Communism.
- “The Christians said they would not worship Caesar, anybody, or anything, but the living God. Thus to the Roman Empire they were rebels...That is why they were thrown to the lions”. Schaeffer, Francis
- **Constantinianism**: which is a policy establishing a particular Church as the religion of the state. In 313, Constantine ended the persecution of the Christians which paved the way for Christianity to be the state religion enforced upon its citizens in 381, led by Theodosius I.

- This form of government is very problematic and has led to numerous persecutions throughout Church history in the name of Christ.
- The only time the Church and the State will function properly is when Jesus is upon the throne. In a fallen world Constantinianism will lead to a particular brand of Christianity being rigorously enforced upon the people.
- **Autonomous**: A system of anarchy of which self law determines each person's moral direction.
- A system of government of which, "...there is no basis for law except man's limited experience."-Schaeffer, Francis
- "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."-**Judges 21:25**

- There is a constant conflict of moral direction between each of the autonomous groups who each have their own set of governing principles.
- **Theonomous**: God has given to the governments power and He intends for them to work **separately** but **cooperatively** toward the greater end.
- "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their **Creator** with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."-Declaration of Independence
- This form of government, though not perfect, seems to be in accord with the Biblical principles of a Judeo-Christian worldview.

## **Believers in the World**

- I do not ask that you take them **out of** the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are **not of** the world, just as I am not of the world”-**John 17:15-16**
- “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ”-**Philippians 3:20**
- “He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”-**Colossians 2:15**
- Since believers are **not of** the world but **in** the world and we are **now** made to be **citizens** of heaven; Jesus having freed believers from the **rulers and authorities**; how should we then live within the confines of this present world order that one day will pass away?
- Paul has given the solution here in **Romans Chapter 13**.

## **Romans 13:1-2**

“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. ”

“ Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.”

## Subject to Governing Authorities

- Every person is to subject to **the governing authorities**. -Vs. 1
- The word **subject** used here can be a little unclear.
- Paul specifically chose to use the word in the original Greek, *hypotassō*, which means to **submit** to one's control; to **arrange** under, to subordinate.
- “Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ”-1 **Peter 2:13**
- “Wives, **submit** to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”-**Ephesians 5:22**

- There are two other Greek words that help us to understand what Paul was conveying in subjecting ourselves:
  1. *Hypakouō*, which means to heed or conform to a command or authority, to hearken, to be obedient to, to obey.
- “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”- **Ephesians 6:1**
- “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place...”-**Hebrews 11:8a**
  2. *Peitharcheō*, which means to obey a ruler or a superior, to be persuaded by a ruler.
- “We must obey God rather than men.”-**Acts 5:29**

- Paul when he asked believers to be subject to the governing authorities is not suggesting that we obey every ordinance.
- He is simply implying that the default position of every believe is to submit under the governing authorities.
- “The civil government, as all of life, stands under the Law of God. In this fallen world God has given us certain offices to protect us from the chaos which is the natural result of that fallenness. But when any office commands that which is contrary to the Word of God, those who hold that office abrogate their authority and they are not to be obeyed. And that includes the state”.- Schaeffer, Francis
- The preaching of the gospel is from God and not man and if the state orders that we are not do so, “We must obey God rather than men.”-**Acts 5:29**

## Examples of Civil Disobedience

- “There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”-**Daniel 3:12**
- "In situations like this, no crime is greater than nonconformity, yet that is exactly what God asks of us when the things of the world are arrayed against the things of God". Feinburg, Charles
- “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter...

- If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”-**Daniel 3:16-18**
- “All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions...When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.”-**Daniel 6:7,10**



- But the midwives **feared God** and did not **do** as the king of Egypt **commanded** them, but let the male children live.”-**Exodus 1:17**
- If civil disobedience is the believer’s only recourse we must understand that to the eyes of the State that person is a rebel deserving of punishment- **those who resist will incur judgment.**-**Vs. 2**
- This was demonstrated by the early Christians who died for their stance against the State which also has been the fate of so many throughout Church history who have rebelled in the name of Christ even to this present day.

- During the times when civil disobedience may need to be acted upon believers should pray for the:
  - **Wisdom** to pursue a possible collaboration that enables the believer to meet the government’s authority without compromising his or her beliefs.
  - **Courage** to be willing to stand up for one's beliefs when no compromise is possible.
  - **Discipline** to develop a lifestyle so that when civil disobedience is needed punishment can be endured.

- The Holy Spirit will give believer's the wisdom, the courage, and the discipline during the times of civil disobedience to the governing authorities.
- "And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the **Holy Spirit** will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."-**Luke 12:11-12**
- "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that **the power of Christ** may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, **persecutions**, and calamities. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**"-**2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

## God Installs Civil Authorities

- For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been **instituted by God**.-**Vs. 1b**
- There is no condition upon whether or not the governing authority instituted by God be upright or moral.
- "...behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the LORD, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, **my servant.**"-**Jeremiah 25:9a**
- "...the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will"-**Daniel 4:17b**
- If any believer **resists the governing authorities** for any other reason than the State forbidding the preaching of the gospel or worshipping God then he **resists what God has appointed**.-**Vs. 2**

- We may not agree with the Governing authorities that **God has appointed** but every believer still needs to submit to its authority.
- “He who stays in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, but he who goes out and **surrenders** to the Chaldeans who are **besieging** you shall live and shall have his life as a prize of war.” -**Jeremiah 21:9**
- Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom **I have sent** into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But **seek the welfare** of the city where I have sent you into exile, and **pray to the LORD** on its behalf, for in its **welfare** you will find your **welfare**.” -**Jeremiah 29:4-7**

## **Romans 13:3-5**

“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, 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. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience."

## **God's Use of Governments**

- God will use governing authorities no matter if they be good or bad in order to bring to the **submitting** believers what is **good** from **His perspective**.
- Believer's who are not **submitting** should **fear** the **one in authority** because the government does not **bear the sword in vain** but in order to **carry out God's wrath on the wrongdoer**.
- Any person who resists the governing authority incurs judgment or consequences for their wrong doing.
- The **fear of the consequences** is what the ruling authority uses to keep people in line.
- If a person does what is **right** there is **no fear** but **approval** and his **conscience** will be clear before God and man.

- The **sword** is a symbol of power and authority and without **submission** there would be no social order due to our sinful natures.
- “So a community of itself, because of sin, is a naked society that can but destroy itself, and every one eat the flesh of his brother, therefore God hath appointed a king or governor, who shall take care of that community, rule them in peace, and save all from reciprocation of mutual acts of violence”.-Rutherford, Samuel
- **Romans 13** indicates that all power is from God and that government is ordained and instituted by God. The state, however, is to be administered according to the principles of God’s Law. Acts of the state which contradicted God’s Law were illegitimate and acts of tyranny. Tyranny was defined as ruling without the sanction of God.-Rutherford, quoted by Francis Schaeffer

- “John Knox is rightly thought of as a radical reformer. There is, however, an important distinction to keep in mind concerning him. Throughout his ministry, Knox appealed for moderation and compromise whenever truly fundamental issues were not at stake.” –Schaeffer, Francis
- Knox wrote, “Kings then have not absolute power in their regiment to do what pleases them; but their power is limited by God’s word.” A ruler must consider that he is “Lieutenant to One whose eyes watch upon him.”- John Knox, quoted by Francis Schaeffer
- The important fundamental issue, for John Knox, is when the State attempts to conform believers to a standard of living not supported by **God’s character as revealed to us in His Word**.

## **Romans 13:6-7**

“For because of this you also pay taxes,  
for the authorities are ministers of God,  
attending to this very thing.

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.”

## The Reason For Taxes

- The governing authorities are God's **ministers** and **paying taxes** allows the government to **attend to this very thing** of being **servants** of God full time.
- We **pay taxes** to the State as commanded by God but believers do not **worship** the State.
- "And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore **render to Caesar** the things that are Caesar's, and **to God** the things that are God's."- **Matthew 22:21**

- It is not God and Caesar. God is over and rules over Caesar.
- I've heard arguments saying that, "because the government uses my tax money for intentions that are opposite to God's will I do not want to support evil by paying taxes".
- Jesus supported **paying taxes** even though the Roman government to which He paid the taxes crucified Him.
- **Taxes** were a big issue during the writing of Romans. The **taxes paid** by believers and Jews were being used by the government to punish those who did not worship Caesar as god.

- The believer is to **honor** and to **respect** those in authority established by God and to give **revenue** so that the government can function.
- The State is God's servant to do man good. The State being God's **servant** implies that it should operate according to the moral order given to man by God. **If it does not then civil disobedience is the Believer's duty.**
- "...where a government was **not** serving God for the good of its citizens, any appeal to this passage [**Romans 13:1-7**] as a way of **maintaining their [the oppressed] subservience** would be a complete distortion and an abuse both of Paul's purpose and of its continuing scriptural significance."-Dunn, James

## **Romans 13:8-10**

"Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 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.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

## The Debt Owed To all

- Believers are instructed in this passage to **owe no one anything** except the debt to **love each other**.
- The word used for **owe** in the Greek is **opheilō**, and means to **accrue a continual debt**.
- The tense is also important being in the **imperative present active** which is the tense for a **command** or **directive** to do something.
- We find this word used in five regions of the Believer's life in Scripture:
  1. We are to forgive others the **debt** of sin towards us because God forgave us the **debt** of our sin paid by His Son.

- “...forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is **indebted** to us.”-**Luke 11:4a**
  - 2. We are **indebted** to God to be thankful for the growth of fellow believers.
- “We **ought** always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.”-**2 Thessalonians 1:3**
  - 3. In marriage there is the owing of **debt** to one another. This originates with the husband who **owes** love to his wife.
- “In the same way husbands **should** love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”-**Ephesians 5:28**

- 4. As specified here in **Romans 13:8** we **owe** love to each other:
  - “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also **ought** to love one another”.-**1 John 4:11**
- 5. The strong believer is in **debt** to bear the failings of the weak.
  - “We who are strong have an **obligation** to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”-**Romans 15:1**
  - “We may pay our taxes and be quiet. We may give respect and honor where they are due and have no further obligation. But we can never say, ‘I have done all the loving I need to do.’ Love then is a permanent **obligation, a debt** impossible to discharge.”-Morris, Leon

## Love Fulfills the Law

- Paul in this passage of Scripture has pulled together both the love of fellow believers, **love each other**, and the act of love to all others, **love your neighbor**.
- Notice that it is **love** that fulfills the law, not doing of the Law, **for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.**- Vs8.
- The action to **love** each other and our neighbor **fulfills** the law.
- The word **fulfilled** in the Greek means to **fill to the top**: so that nothing shall be wanting bringing to full measure, **fill to the brim**.

- Jesus said, “If you **love** me, you will keep my commandments.”- **John 14:15**
- Our **obedience** is accomplished and motivated out of our **Love** for Christ.
- The religious person reverses this verse saying, “if you keep my commandments you love me” making the **action** of keeping the commandments more important than love for Jesus.
- Love comes first and then keeping of the commandments an expression of our love for Him.
- The elder son, “...answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never **disobeyed your command**, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.”-**Luke 15:29**
- It is love that should distinguish a believer not the law.

## The Commandments

- This commandment list given by Paul in **13:9**, is directed towards our **interaction with our fellow man**.
- Committing adultery, murder, stealing, bearing false witness, coveting are actions **against one another**.
- **Coveting** is the **root sin** that causes man to break any of the commandments listed above.
- “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his **own desire**. Then **desire** when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”-**James 1:14-15**

- “The command not to **covet** is an entirely inward thing. **Coveting** is never an outward thing...It is an intriguing factor that this is the last command that God gives us in the Ten Commandments and thus the **hub of the whole matter**... Actually we break this last commandment, **not to covet**, before we break any of the others.”-Schaeffer, Francis
- **Desire** or **coveting** becomes sin when it leads us to **desire** something or someone **other than God** resulting in a person being discontented towards God causing resentful/angry thoughts against Him.
- **Desire** also becomes sinful when it leads a person to be **envious** towards **our fellow man** which may lead for that person to commit an injurious act towards them if those thoughts are allowed to persist.

- In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus pinned sin to **thoughts** of anger towards murder and adultery towards looking with lust, rather than the actual act itself.
- Paul then throws in the phrase **any other commandment** to capture any theological snag that may come up.-**Vs.9**
- We could also add then to our list: Gossip, strife, pride, boastfulness, hatred, and selfish ambitions among others.
- But notice how the laws listed here in **vs.9**, are **all gathered together** or **summed up** when set beside **love**.
- A believer is to **love God** enough to be content with his life and His provision and a believer is to **love his neighbor** enough not **envy** against him which may lead to sinning against them either in thought or action.

## All Desire is not Sinful

- “Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the **desires** of your heart.”-**Psalm 37:4**
- If the Lord is our **desire** and delight he will give us more of Himself, “Longings **fixed on Him** Fulfill themselves”.-MaClaren, Alexander
- “...**seek first** the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”-**Matthew 6:33**
- “Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is **nothing** on earth that I **desire** besides you.”-**Psalm 73:25**
- “In the end...there are only two kinds of ambition: one can be ambitious either for **oneself** or for **God**. There is no third alternative.”- Stott, John

## Love Your Neighbor As Yourself

- The problem of **loving your neighbor as yourself** is that our idea of love has become so distorted by a culture that is a product of sin.
- Our first experience with love originates with our parents but they are human and sinful thus have affected our lives with an imperfect love.



- The primary meaning of the word **love** in Scripture is a **purposeful commitment to sacrificial action for another**.
- There is the aspect of love for persons who are not attractive or virtuous or productive. In this case, love is not a delight in what a person is, but a deeply felt commitment to helping him be what he ought to be.”-Piper, John
- “For God so **loved** the world, that he **gave** his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be **saved** through him.  
”-John 3:16-17

- "The Greek construction [**John3:16**] puts some emphasis on the actuality of the gift: it is not 'God loved enough to give,' but '**God loved so that he gave.**' His love is not a vague, sentimental feeling, but a love that costs. God gave what was most dear to him."-Morris, Leon
- "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."-**Ephesians 5:1-2**
- The individual believers are able to **love his neighbor as himself** by centering his heart, soul, mind and strength upon the love God gave for us and to love as Christ has loved us.
- "Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. "-**1 Corinthians 10:23**
- **Love** does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore **love** is the fulfilling of the law.-**Vs.10**

- "Every time I see something right in another man, it tends to minimize me, and it makes easier for me to have a proper creature-creature relationship. But each time I see something **wrong** in others, it is dangerous, for it can exalt self [causing] fellowship with God to fall...It is not wrong to be right, but it is wrong to have the wrong attitude in being right...If I really love man as I love myself, I will long to see him be what he could be on the **basis of Christ's work**, for that is what I want or should want for myself on the basis of Christ's work".-Schaeffer, Francis

## **Romans 13:11-14**

“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. 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. ”

“Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”



## The Hour Has Come

- Paul said to the believers in his day **you know the time**.
- The word for **know** is the Greek word *oida*, which means **to know Intuitively** or through **inward perception** only used in the perfect tense which is a past completed event that is influencing the present.
- The word for **hour** can mean an actual hour of the day but it most frequently means a **point in time**.
- Believers are **not** to be lethargic and insensible to the times we are living but are to discern that our **salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed**. -Vs.11
- Jesus said, "Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because **your redemption is drawing near**." -Luke 21:28

- "Christ's return is the next event in God's plan; Paul knew it could take place **at any time** and sought to prepare Christians—both in his generation and in ours—for that **blessed hope**." -Moo, Douglas
- That is true of any generation of any age; we are closer now than we were even a moment ago.
- All of us live on the edge of eternity and the Lord could come at any moment.
- Paul's exhortation was very powerful for his time as well as our time: **wake from sleep**.
- "'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.' Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **making the best use of the time**, because the days are evil." -Ephesians 5:14-16

## Cast Off

- Paul instructs believers to **cast off** the works of darkness. -Vs.12
- He describes the works of darkness as:
- Orgies: This is better interpreted as loud partying. It was the custom of people in the evening to get drunk and then form a line and dance through the city stopping off at a friend's home singing loudly and drinking more. It was often geared towards honoring Bacchus, the god of wine and drink.
- Drunkenness: It is just plain out getting drunk.
- "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit..." -**Ephesians 5:18**

- Paul advises that being drunk with wine leads to *asōtia* the word for **debauchery**, which describes **losing one's self in excess**.
- Paul reminds us that a little too much wine can lead to results far more extreme than you expect. It's the first mile of the road that leads to a wasted life, i.e. like the younger son in the prodigal (**Luke 15:13**).
- Sexual immorality: Paul uses this broader word to describe all categories of sexual sins, ones occurring at the pagan temple and ones not related to Greek and Roman paganism.
- The Greek word literally means **a bed** and has in it the meaning of the desire for the **forbidden bed**.
- Sensuality: This is seeking to fulfill desires at the expense of others. They have gone past feelings for the ones they hurt.

- In Ephesians, Paul describes sensuality has being callous, “They have become **callous** and have given themselves up to **sensuality**, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.”-**Ephesians 4:19**
- **Sensuality** describes a person who has lost all shame and doesn’t care who sees him committing wrong behaviors thus having become **callous** and **practices** the things which are inappropriate for any person to do in public.
- **Quarreling**: A person who wants to quarrel about anything and everything.
- “It comes from the desire for place and power and prestige and the hatred of being surpassed. It is essentially the sin which places self in the foreground and is the entire negation of Christian love.”-Barclay, William

- **Jealousy**: It attempts to keep other people from having what they desire and desires what other people have.
- A person who cannot be satisfied with what he has and looks with a jealous eye on every blessing given to someone else which he feels has been denied to him.
- The **works of darkness** are the negative side of mankind but it doesn’t end here for the Believer because he is to **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**.
- The rags of sin must come off if we put on the robe of Christ. There must be a taking away of the **love of sin**, there must be a renouncing of the practices and habits of sin...”-Spurgeon, Charles

## Put On Jesus

- Job stated, “I **put on righteousness**, and it clothed me.”-**Job 29:14**
- This is what Paul is referring to here in **Romans 13:14**, by putting on Jesus we are covering our life that is prone to sin with His **garment of righteousness, no condemnation, justified by faith in Him**.
- We do not overcome evil, or sin, or the **deeds of darkness** by fighting against them but by **putting on Jesus Christ**.
- **Putting on Christ** is a strong and vivid metaphor. It means more than put on the character of the Lord Jesus Christ, signifying rather **Let Jesus Christ Himself be the armor that you wear**.”- Morris, Leon
- “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has **clothed me** with the garments of salvation; he has **covered me with the robe of righteousness**...”-**Isaiah 61:10a**

## No Provision for the Flesh

- This instruction of Paul to make **no provision for the flesh** is similar to what he taught us in **Romans 6:13**, to present our bodies **as instruments for righteousness**.
- The word for provision in the Greek means fore thought, or from the mind...“For those who live according to the flesh **set their minds** on the things of the flesh...”-**Romans 8:5a**
- The Believer is to present himself to be molded by the Word of God and by God’s grace.
- “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”-**Galatians 3:27**

- Just as in water baptism a person is united with the water so also when we place our **faith in Christ Jesus** we are united in Jesus.
- Faith connects you so intimately with Christ, that He and you become as it were **one person**. As such you may boldly say: 'I am now one with Christ. Therefore Christ's righteousness, victory, and life are mine. -Luther, Martin
- As we embrace the truth of the gospel it should change the way in which a person thinks and acts towards God and his neighbor.
- "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."-**Galatians 5:16**
- The Holy Spirit doesn't move in us to gratify our fallen desires and passions but to **teach us about Jesus** and to guide us in conforming each believer into the image of Jesus.