

Loving Your Leaders

Romans 13: 1 - 10



Romans 13: 1 - 7

1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended.

Romans 13: 1 - 7

4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

7 Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

“Christianity began on Palestinian soil
as a relationship with a person.

It moved on to Greek soil and became a philosophy.

It moved on to Roman soil and became an
institution.

It moved on to British soil and became a culture.

It moved on to American soil and became an
enterprise.”

Richard Halverson

It moved on to Singapore soil and
became all of the above!

Trust in Government is All Time Low

Corruption is at All Time High

Roms 13: Introduction

Goal is
Human Flourishing

Roms 13: Introduction

Context: Roms 12

Love Your Enemies

Martyrs for Christ

Graham Stuart Staines (1941-January 1999)
Australian missionary burnt to death along with his
two sons Philip (aged 9) and Timothy (aged 7) while
sleeping in station wagon at Manoharpur village in
Keonjhar district in Orissa, India in January 1999 by
Hindu activists.

Gladys Staines visited India in June 2006.
In interview, underlined the importance of forgiveness.

“In forgiveness, there is no bitterness and when there is no bitterness, there is hope. This consolation comes from Jesus Christ.”

Roms 13: Introduction

Context: Roms 12

**Vengeance is mine;
I will repay, saith the Lord
(Bible)**

**He who seeks vengeance must
dig two graves; one for his
enemy and one for himself.**

**Those who leave everything in
God's hand will eventually see
God's hand in everything.**

Roms 13 Introduction

Writing to Christian in Rome, seat of the
Roman Empire

Jews reputation of rebelling vs. foreign
government (Deut 17: 15)

It may look like your situation is never going to change, but in a split second God can completely resolve it.

Roms 13: Perspectives

#1 God is sovereign in appointing government

Nobody secures rulership without God's permission

Ordered Government is not merely a human choice/human device but of divine origin

John 19: 11:

Jesus had to remind Pontius Pilate
that his authority is Given Authority

**Only God can turn
a Mess into a MESSAGE,
a Test into a TESTIMONY,
a Trial into a TRIUMPH,
a Victim into a VICTOR**

Roms 13: Perspectives

Senator Paul Low,

Former President, Transparency International

“We move from Activism to Constructive Engagement.

*When we criticize,
we must also give solutions.”*

Be a **CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVIST:**
Respond thoughtfully not emotionally.
Act swiftly and decisively, trusting in God's help
and the guidance of his Word.

**The activist is not the man who says the river is
dirty. The activist is the man who cleans up the river.**

Ross Perot

Paul Low, Minister in Prime Minister Office
(Minister for Governance & Human Rights)

*“Leave a Team of Integrity Officers in each ministry:
Enhance credibility of enforcement & improve
processes
I see myself as a Daniel under King Artaxerxes.”*

Roms 13: Perspectives

2: God installs government to uphold righteousness and law

3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority?

Then do what is right and you will be commended.

PAX ROMANA

Means “Roman Peace” in Latin

Roman Law

GENERAL GUIDE

Paul is NOT legislating for every conceivable situation

He himself was flogged, treated unjustly,
Died for his faith

Cannot Over-Simplify
Or
Over-Justify

Counter Point:

“Obey God rather than man” (Acts 5: 29)

- Whether to rebel or engage in civil disobedience
- How to navigate through political treachery & intrigues
- What happen if clashes between Civil & Religious Authorities

“Obey God rather than man”
(Acts 5: 29)

- How to behave between legitimate & usurped authority
- Deal with issues when authority asks us to do things against the Law or unjust, corrupt tyranny.
- What we should do when it fails in its moral or legal authority

Roms 13: Perspectives

3: God wants us to do what is right

Then do what is right and you will be commended.

Khunying Jaruvan Maintaka

Appointed Auditor-General in 2001 – 2006

Thaksin Shinawatra,
Former PM, Thailand

Made headlines after revealing corruption in state projects costing Thailand 100 billion baht

“These people tried to scare me – every morning & night I would receive death threats concerning me and my family. Refused to take any phone calls for a year. I had 5 soldiers to transport me in a van everyday, carrying M-16s, revolvers, bulletproof vests”

*Threatened over the phone everyday.
Tempted many times but I said, “No”*

*Offered 100 million Baht to drop a case.
“I ask him to leave and take the money with him.’*

Honored by the King
With
Khun Ying Jaruvan

Opposition continued.
She was charged with corruption.

Khunying Jaruvan was prosecuted in
Criminal Court on malfeasance charge:
False report on conference she organized
Sentenced 2 Year for 294,440 Baht

People **hurt** you.

God will **heal** you.

People **humiliate** you.

God will **magnify** you.

People **judge** you.

God will **justify** you.

Roms 13: Perspectives

4: God wants us prosper our country

“6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing.

7 Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.”

4 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Lim Guan Eng

- Imprisoned in Operation Lalang in 1987, with 106 others
- Grandma asked him to defend 13 year Moslem girl, raped by then Chief Minister of Melaka
- Night before trial, she withdrew her confession
- Guan Eng was charged for sedition
- In 1988, thrown in prison again for 18 months

We should be less concerned
about hurting the feelings of
the oppressors and more
concerned about standing in
solidarity with the oppressed.

Remi Kanazi

Vision: City on a Hill

Prosper when it is build on integrity & competence

Highest per capital income

Ranked 2nd in foreign investment

Public debt decreased by 95% from

Rm 630 million to Rm 30 million

Well-loved by Penangites

“The night is always the darkness just before dawn.
Things will get worse before they become better.

When you are your depths, it will pass.
When you are at your heights, it will also pass.”

If you don't sacrifice for what you want, what you want will be the sacrifice.

Roms 13: Conclusion

If goal is

Human Flourishing,

What is God wanting you
to do?

4 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 **“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”**