

13[1] Let every soul be subject to higher¹ authorities. For no authority exists, except by God,² and the authorities who exist are appointed by the God. [2] So that, the one opposing the authority resists the ordinance of the God, and those who resist will receive judgment upon themselves.³ [3] For the rulers are not a fear of the good works, but of the bad. And, do you want to not fear the authority? Do the good, and you will have praise from the same.

[4] For he is a servant of God to you for the good. And if you do the bad, fear. For he does not vainly bear the sword. For he is a servant of God, an avenger for wrath to the one who does the bad. [5] Therefore, to be subject is a necessity, not only because of the wrath, but also because of the conscience.

[6] For because of this, you pay taxes. For they are ministers⁴ of God continuing unto this very thing. [7] Therefore, pay to all the dues, to whom the tax, the tax, to whom the custom, the custom, to whom the fear, the fear, to whom the honor, the honor. [8] Owe no one anything, except to love one another. For the one who loves the other has fulfilled law.

[9] For this, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness,⁵ you shall not desire,⁶ and if some other commandment, in this the word is summed up, in that, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. [10] The love to the neighbor does not work bad. Therefore, the love is fulfillment of law.

[11] And this, knowing the time, that an hour is already for us to be raised from sleep. For now, the salvation is nearer for us than when we believed. [12] The night advanced, and the day has come near. Therefore, let us lay aside the works of the darkness and put on the instruments of the light.⁷ [13] As in day, let us walk properly, not in revelry⁸ and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity⁹ and lewdness, not in strife and jealousy. [14] But, put on the Lord Joshua Christ, and make no provision for desires of the flesh.

1 ὑπερεχούσαις (huperechousais) “higher” YLT, KJV; “governing” NKJV, NAS – found also in Philippians 2:3 (“better”); 3:8 (“excellence”); 4:7 (“surpasses”); 1 Peter 2:13 (king as “supreme”).

2 Romans 11:36; Lamentations 3:37

3 Even if the authority is being unjust, He still requires we do not oppose/resist (Matthew 5:39//Luke 6:29-30; James 5:6). See also Lamentations 3:27-41 (vs 33 is more literally, “for he does not afflict from his heart” e.g. Jeremiah 9:1-3).

4 λειτουργοὶ (leitourgoi) “ministers” - found also in Romans 15:16; Philippians 2:25; Hebrews 1:7; 8:2. Related verb, λειτουργέω (leitourgeō), has to do with service (ministering) to God, found in Acts 13:2; Romans 15:27; Hebrews 10:11.

5 RT, ψευδομαρτυρήσεις (pseudomarturêseis) “you shall not bear false witness,” not in the CT or MT.

6 ἐπιθυμήσεις (epithumêseis) “desire” - see Romans 7:7 and footnote. Covetousness = desiring what you should not.

7 Ephesians 6:12-18

8 κώμοις (kômois) “revelry” (“noisy partying” Webster) NKJV; “rioting” KJV; “carousing” NAS – found also in Galatians 5:21; 1 Peter 4:3.

9 κοίταις (koitais) plural noun, “sexual promiscuity” NAS; see footnote for Romans 9:10.