

PAUL'S ADVICE ON HOW TO BEHAVE
ROMANS 13:1-7 SUBMIT TO AUTHORITY

- Exodus 22:28 “Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.” Paul has been speaking (via letter) to Christians in Rome about how to behave in their society.
- Romans 13:1-2 Paul wrote this letter from Corinth after traveling through Macedonia and Greece. To this point, Paul had upset some Jews with his message and boldness, but there had not been accusations of violating Jewish law. Paul is not speaking as a “lawbreaker” or being hypocritical. Indeed, in Acts 23:5 Paul, before the Sanhedrin, quotes Moses Law while pleading innocence (by ignorance) of his guilt.
- Romans 13:3-4 Paul states here why he boldly proclaims Christ, and, as we see in Acts last chapters, why he does not run away or hide. Indeed, in Acts 23:1, before the Sanhedrin, Paul states he has obeyed the law.
- Romans 13:5 Not just a suggestion, but a necessity – not just to avoid punishment, but for conscience, or peace of mind.
- Romans 13:6-7 What did Jesus say about taxes? Render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s and unto God what is God’s. Paul elaborates here and also clarifies.