

## Romans 13 Summary Sheet

### Key Questions

- - Is all leadership ordained by God?
- - Is there a time that we should stand against higher powers?
- - How do we judge our leaders?
- - Are the leaders in this chapter religious or secular?
- - Can a non-Christian leader be 'a minister of God to thee for good' (v.3)?
- - How do we love our neighbor as ourselves?

### Verses 1–7: Be Subject to Higher Powers

- God ordains all authority (Romans 13:1), but this does not imply His approval of a leader's morality (Daniel 2:21, Hosea 8:4).
- God can use leaders as vessels of mercy or judgment (Isaiah 3:1–15; Numbers 14).
- Resistance to authority can bring divine judgment (Romans 13:2), though Acts 5:29 shows we must obey God when rulers oppose Him.
- True leaders promote good and punish evil (Romans 13:3–4).
- Christians should be law-abiding and pay dues (Romans 13:7; Matthew 22:21).

### Verses 8–14: Love One Another

- Love fulfills the law (Romans 13:8–10; James 2:8; 1 Corinthians 13).
- 'Sleep' represents spiritual laziness or insensitivity to Christ's call (Romans 13:11).
- The Christian must live with urgency and avoid the lusts of the flesh (Romans 13:12–14; Ephesians 2:2; Colossians 3:10).

### Reflection Summary

Romans 13 teaches us to submit to governing authorities while discerning their alignment with God's justice. If a leader punishes evil and promotes good, they function as God's servant. If they do evil, discernment and resistance may be required. True love—anchored in truth—guides Christian living. Love must be sincere, not sensual or manipulative. We must regularly ask if our actions are motivated by love of God or fear of man. As followers of Christ, we are called to sacrifice for love—not compromise truth.