

THE FACETS OF LIFE

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April 8, 2018

Romans 13:1-14

1. What do I mean by the facets of life?
2. The word facet refers to any definable aspect that applies to an object, subject, culture or person.
3. Some uses of the word would be:
 - a. Each facet of the problem requires careful attention.
 - b. The different facets of our culture.
 - c. Which facet of his character is most appealing?
 - d. Life has many facets.
4. A Christian's life has different facets than the life of a non-Christian?
5. The life of a genuine follower of Jesus Christ has facets that differ from the lives of those who are immature or carnal Christians.
6. In Romans 12-16 the Apostle Paul dealt with the various facets of life and how we as Christians should relate to and live life in whatever situation, circumstance or culture we might find ourselves.
6. Determining what is right in God's sight is not always easy, and requires prayer, a knowledge of God's Word, and the empowerment and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.
7. In this chapter Paul deals with our relationship to authority, the culture, and the span of our lives.
8. As followers of Jesus Christ we are to:

I. Live under authority. 1-7

- A. The overriding principle is, "We must obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29
- B. At the same time, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men." Romans 12:18
- C. A careful study of the book of Daniel will go a long way in helping us to understand and apply what Paul teaches in these verses.
- D. Notice Paul's inclusive and emphatic command, "Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities."
- E. "There is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God."
- F. God ordained authority would include:
 1. Government over all citizens.
 2. Church over all believers.
 3. Parents over all children.
 4. Masters/employers over all servants/employees.
- G. Here Paul is dealing with the governing authorities whether they be dictators or democracies, righteous or unrighteous, benevolent or malevolent (vicious or cruel).
- H. Where authority is concerned Christians are to be:
 1. Cooperative. 2

2. Responsible. 3-4

NOTE: Even bad government is better than no government. An example would be Yugoslavia ruled by Marshall Tito. While he ruled the ethnic hatred that existed between the people was controlled. Once he was dead the various factions turned on each other leading to the deaths of many people and the eventual establishment of Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia.

3. Obedient. 5-7

- I. One of our biggest failures is our failure to pray for those in authority. 1 Tim 2:1-4
First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

II. Live lovingly. 8-10

A. In verse 7 Paul wrote, "Render to all what is due them," and here he commands, "Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another."

NOTE: The word "due" in verse 8 is the same Greek word as "owe" in verse 9.

B. Paul is telling us to fulfill all of our worldly obligations.

C. Our only ongoing obligation is to manifest love towards all people.

D. The command to love our neighbor as ourselves is the essence of the Law.

E. The New Commandment embodies both the Law and grace. John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

III. Live purposefully. 11-14

A. Be alert and active. 11

B. Be light instead of darkness. 12

C. Behave properly rather than improperly. 13

D. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and live accordingly. 14 (Col 3:5-11)

Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you also, **put them all aside**: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, **since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him** — 11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

APPLICATION

1. As followers of Jesus Christ we are to be good citizens, loving neighbors to all we rub elbows with, and actively engaged followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Each of us should examine our lives in the light of these truths.