Honor and Respect Sandwiched Between Love

Romans 13:1-7

**I would like to start Today’s sermon with a short History Bio on William Tyndale that comes from online Britannica…**

**William Tyndale, (born c. 1490–94), near Gloucestershire, England—died October 6, 1536,**

**Tyndale was educated at the University of Oxford and became an instructor at the University of Cambridge, where, in 1521, he fell in with a group of humanist scholars meeting at the White Horse Inn. Tyndale became convinced that the Bible alone should determine the practices and doctrines of the church and that every believer should be able to read the Bible in his own language.**

**After church authorities in England prevented him from translating the Bible there, he went to Germany in 1524, receiving financial support from wealthy London merchants. His New Testament translation was completed in July 1525 and printed at Cologne and, when Catholic authorities suppressed it, at Worms. The first copies reached England in 1526. Tyndale then began work on an Old Testament translation but was captured in Antwerp before it was completed; he was executed at Vilvoorde in 1536.**

**At the time of his death, several thousand copies of his New Testament had been printed; however, only one intact copy remains today at London’s British Library. The first vernacular English text of any part of the Bible to be so published, Tyndale’s version became the basis for most subsequent English translations, beginning with the King James Version of 1611.**

Another Source says of Tyndale:

His NTs were smuggled in bales of cotton and distributed across England. People could purchase a copy for just a week’s wages – which was actually remarkably affordable.

The bishops were furious, as was King Henry VIII. In an effort to control the spread of Tyndale’s work, they burned every copy they could get their hands on.

They had a ceremonial book burning as a warning under the direction of Bishop Tunstall – the same man who refused to allow Tyndale to begin an English translation years earlier. They even threatened to burn those caught with a Tyndale Bible.

…Something had to be done. As Tyndale began a revision of his first translation of the New Testament, a man by the name of Henry Phillips was appointed to track down Tyndale. Phillips had gotten into a great deal of debt and he was offered a lot of money if he could locate Tyndale.

In 1535, Phillips began making contacts with the merchants in Antwerp, and after a great deal of deception worked his way to finding out where Tyndale was living. Not only did he discover Tyndale’s wherabouts, he worked his way into the inner circle and befriended William Tyndale himself.

One day, after Phillips borrowed 40 shillings from Tyndale, he invited him to dinner. While walking through a narrow alley William Tyndale was ambushed by imperial officers and arrested.

Tyndale would be imprisoned for over 500 days. He was kept in a cold and dark prison cell in a castle near Belgium…

On October 6, 1536, he was brought out to the place of his execution. The crowd watched as he was placed up against a stake, wood and straw piled around his feet. Gunpowder was sprinkled on top. A chain and rope were placed around his neck.

Just before he was killed, Tyndale gave his last words: “Lord, open the king of England’s eyes!” The noose was tightened, and Tyndale was no more. His body was burned, and the spectacle was made more gruesome by the fact that the gunpowder exploded. God’s outlaw, William Tyndale, met with a martyr’s death for the crime of bringing the Word of God to England.

Just two years later Tyndale’s dying prayer would be answered. Henry VIII decreed that a copy of the Bible in English and Latin should be made available in every church in England.

**Slide 1**

In remembrance of William Tyndale I thought I would read our text for today from His translation of Romans 12:9-13:10:

**Slide 2**

[**9**](https://biblehub.com/romans/12-9.htm)Let love be without dissimulation. Hate that which is evil, and cleave unto that which is good. [**10**](https://biblehub.com/romans/12-10.htm)Be kind one to another, with brotherly love. In giving honour go one before another. [**11**](https://biblehub.com/romans/12-11.htm)Let not that business which ye have in hand be tedious to you. Be fervent in the spirit. Apply yourselves to the time. [**12**](https://biblehub.com/romans/12-12.htm)Rejoice in hope. Be patient in tribulation, continue in prayer. [**13**](https://biblehub.com/romans/12-13.htm)Distribute unto the necessity of the saints.

**Slide 3**

[**14**](https://biblehub.com/romans/12-14.htm)Bless them which persecute you: bless but curse not. [**15**](https://biblehub.com/romans/12-15.htm)Be merry with them that are merry. Weep with them that weep. [**16**](https://biblehub.com/romans/12-16.htm)Be of like affection one towards another. Be not high minded, but make yourselves equal to them of the lower sort. Be not wise in your own opinions. [**17**](https://biblehub.com/romans/12-17.htm)Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide aforehand things honest in the sight of all men. [**18**](https://biblehub.com/romans/12-18.htm)If it be possible, yet on your part have peace with all men.

**Slide 4**

[**19**](https://biblehub.com/romans/12-19.htm)Dearly beloved avenge not yourselves but give room unto the wrath of God. For it is written: vengeance is mine, and I will reward saith the Lord.

[**20**](https://biblehub.com/romans/12-20.htm)Therefore if thine enemy hunger feed him: if he thirst, give him drink. For in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head: [**21**](https://biblehub.com/romans/12-21.htm)Be not overcome of evil: But overcome evil with goodness.

**Slide 5**

[**1**](https://biblehub.com/romans/13-1.htm)Let every soul submit himself unto the authority of the higher powers. There is no power but of God. The powers that be, are ordained of (Under) God. [**2**](https://biblehub.com/romans/13-2.htm)Whosoever therefore resisteth power, resisteth the ordinance of God. They that resist, shall receive to themselves damnation. [**3**](https://biblehub.com/romans/13-3.htm)For rulers are not to be feared for good works but for evil. Wilt thou be without fear of the power? Do well then: and so shalt thou be praised of the same.

**Slide 6**

[**4**](https://biblehub.com/romans/13-4.htm)For he is the minister of God, for thy wealth. But and if thou do evil, then fear: for he beareth not a sword for nought. for he is the minister of God, to take vengeance on them that do evil. [**5**](https://biblehub.com/romans/13-5.htm)Wherefore ye must needs obey, not for fear of vengeance only: but also because of conscience. [**6**](https://biblehub.com/romans/13-6.htm)Even for this cause pay ye tribute. For they are godde's ministers, serving for the same purpose.

**Slide 7**

[**7**](https://biblehub.com/romans/13-7.htm)Give to every man therefore his duetie: Tribute to whom tribute belongeth: Custom to whom custom is due: fear to whom fear belongeth: Honour to whom honour pertaineth.

[**8**](https://biblehub.com/romans/13-8.htm)Owe no thing to any man: but to love one another. For he that loveth another, fulfilleth the law.

**Slide 8**

[**9**](https://biblehub.com/romans/13-9.htm)For these commandments: Thou shalt not commit advoutry: Thou shalt not kill: Thou shalt not steal: Thou shalt not bear false witness: Thou shalt not desire: and so forth if there be any other commandment, are all comprehended in this saying: Love thine neighbor as thyself. [**10**](https://biblehub.com/romans/13-10.htm)Love hurteth not his neighbor: Therefore is love the fulfilling of the law.

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William Tyndale spoke out against Henry VIII’s annulment, he spoke out against the wrongs of the pope and the papacy. He translated and smuggled Bibles against the orders of the King and the Church of England.

Why didn’t he just keep quiet and obey the King and the Pope?

After all, doesn’t Romans 13 say that All Government is an authority that is established by God and meant to be obeyed?

Obviously William Tyndale didn’t believe that.

**Slide 10 fly in’s**

Moses didn’t believe it when he told Pharoah to let his people go. (Exodus 9:1)

David didn’t believe it when he refused to submit to Saul’s troops. (1 Samuel 19)

Daniel didn’t just pray in silent, he made it known he was praying. (Daniel 6)

John the Baptist spoke up against Herod and was beheaded. (Matthew 14:1-12)

The Apostle’s were thrown in jail for refusing to obey the governing rulers. (Acts 5:17-18; Acts 16:16-24)

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We must at least admit that there are some instances where we, as Christians, are not bound to obey the governing authorities. Maybe some would say, if it is a really important moral decision then it is okay to defy those who are in authority. But on the little stuff, as long as it isn’t clearly against God, then just do it what the rulers are saying.

Jesus, clearly refuted the religious authorities of the day, even to the point of not washing His hands according to tradition.

He also challenged the religious leader’s decision to stone an adulterous woman. She had committed adultery, it was against the law, and instead of encouraging the punishment, He said He didn’t condemn her.

He over turned the tables that had become part of the temple establishment system…

But what about when Jesus said “Give to Caesar what Belongs to Caesar?”

This was not primarily about paying taxes. Let’s take a quick look at it in Mark 12, beginning with verse 13:

**Slide 12**

Later the leaders sent some Pharisees and supporters of Herod to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested.

“Teacher,” they said, “we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don’t play favorites. You teach the way of God truthfully. Now tell us—is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?

Should we pay them, or shouldn’t we?”

Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, “Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin,[fn] and I’ll tell you.”

When they handed it to him, he asked, “Whose picture and title are stamped on it?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

“Well, then,” Jesus said, “give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.”

His reply completely amazed them.

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One internet commentator said…

He asks to see a coin. He asked whose face and name is on it. The Roman coins had a picture of Caesar, with the inscription Divi Filius (Son of God). The whole point of the Gospels is that Jesus, not Caesar, is the son of God.

Jesus answered to give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to give to God what is God's.

This answer was brilliant in that it said to give Caesar what he thought was important, what he had created - the money. Jesus manages to diminish Caesar without saying anything treasonous.

Jesus's primary message to his followers in the Gospels was that the Kingdom of God was beginning to emerge now, and they could choose to live as if they were already in the Kingdom of God. It is all how you see the world. The old age is still in place. Caesar is still there. But a new age is emerging for those who will see it and live it.

The commentator continues…

It is not, in my opinion, an exhortation to meekly obey an unjust government, but neither is it a call to armed rebellion. He is stating his version of reality - that God is in charge, and we should be about the business of making this a reality in the way we see the world, in the way we treat each other, in the way we share our possessions with those less fortunate, and in our table fellowship.

This is Paul’s attitude in Romans 12 and 13, as well.

**Slide 14**

**Love**

9 Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. 10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. 11 Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. 12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. 13 When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

**Slide 15**

**Blessing**

14 Bless those who persecute you. Don’t curse them; pray that God will bless them. 15 Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with each other. Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all! 17 Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable.

**Slide 16**

**Peace**

18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

**Slide 17**

**Hold the Vengeance**

19 Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the LORD . 20 Instead, “If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.” 21 Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

**Slide 18**

**Respect and Honor**

1 Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. 2 So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. 3 For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. 4 The authorities are God’s servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God’s servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. 5 So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience. 6 Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

Paul is challenging his listeners to show honor where honor was due. Sometimes we might obey out of fear, sometimes because of our conscience, and yet other times we should probably disobey because of conscience and fear of God.

**Slide 19**

**Love**

8 Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God’s law. 9 For the commandments say, “You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet.” These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God’s law.)

Love, honor, and respect was the biggest thing then and it is the biggest thing now!

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**Then end Slide Show**

In our political and cultural climate blind obedience and allegiance to someone or some political party is not going to bring peace.

Do we have people in our government who are making bad decisions?

Are there evil rulers around the world that should be resisted?

Absolutely! But we are supposed to look to Jesus for our example of how to do it.

Love, Blessing, Peace, Respect, Honor, and Love…

Even when we can’t in good conscience obey! This is why William Tyndale’s last words were not…

The King is an idiot, or the King is a heretic, or the King is going to hell…No, instead right before being strangled and burned at the stake William Tyndale said…

“Lord, open the King of England’s Eyes.”

Even his disobedience and rebellion was done with love, honor, and respect for the king.

And…

Just two years later Tyndale’s dying prayer would be answered. Henry VIII decreed that a copy of the Bible in English and Latin should be made available in every church in England.

I’m not telling you to make it a point to rebel against government.

But the Bible does not command us to obey our leaders blindly.

Instead we should be examples of love, honor, peace, and respect. And we should be praying that our leaders would have their eyes open to God’s wisdom and that they would be the minister’s of good that they were meant to be.