

Love Others and Reflect Christlikeness

Romans 13:8-14

Scripture

Romans 13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Scripture

¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

Scripture

¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

Scripture

¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Introduction

After Paul's call for believers to submit to governing authorities in **Romans 13:1-7**, he returns to the theme of love for others which was introduced to us in **Romans 12:9-21**.

Love is Owed to All

Love is an unpaid DEBT. (13:8a) -

“Owe no man any thing [pay all your debts; let no debt remain outstanding], but to love one another [except the debt of love for others].

- Christians must pay their bills.
- Romans 13:7 “Pay to all what is owed to them”

Love is Owed to All

Love is the fulfillment of the Law (13:8b) – “for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law [if you love your neighbor, you will fulfill all the requirements of God’s law that relate to other people].”

- In the next verses Paul gives examples of how to love your neighbor.

Love does no Harm to Others

Romans 13:9-10 - “For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill [commit murder], Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if *there be* any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Love does no Harm to Others

“Love worketh no ill to his neighbor:
therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law.

- Love satisfied all of God’s requirements that apply to relationships with other people.
- If an action violates God’s Word, it is not “loving” no matter how we may argue the purity of our motive.

View Yourself in the Light of Eternity

Romans 13:11-14 urges us to evaluate our attitudes and actions in the light of Jesus' Second Coming.

Learn God's Timetable

- **We must understand the time**

13:11-12a - Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

Learn God's Timetable

¹¹ Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

- **1 John 2:18** Children, it is the last hour . . .
- “Salvation” – ultimate salvation received at Christ's Second Coming.

Learn God's Timetable

From God's point-of-view, the Second Coming of Jesus is the next event on His schedule.

- While we wait for Jesus' return, don't go to sleep spiritually!
- Watch and pray and stay ready each moment of each day.

Learn Appropriate Behavior

¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

- Paul does not say how near the day of the Lord's Second Coming is because he does not know.

Learn Appropriate Behavior

- Paul tells us to “cast off all the works of darkness”
- There must be no “known” and “unconfessed” sin remaining in our lives.
- We are to clothe ourselves with the armor of light.

Learn Appropriate Behavior

¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

- God requires moral purity for our lives and kindness in our attitudes and actions toward others.

Keep the Proper Focus

¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

- We are consciously to embrace Christ in such a way that his character is manifested in all that we do and say.

Keep the Proper Focus

- “make no provision for the flesh” – don’t let the power and influence of this world pull us away from faithfully obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Make the Lord Jesus Christ the center of our attention – let Him be our preoccupation.

Keep the Proper Focus

- When other people scrutinize our lives, they ought to be to see the Savior.

Summary

- Love is owed to all people (13:8a)
- Love is the fulfillment of the Law (13:8b)
- Love does no harm to others (13:9-10)
- View yourself in the light of eternity (13:11-14)
 - Learn God's timetable (13:11-12a)
 - Learn appropriate behavior (13:12b-13)
 - Keep the proper focus (13:14)

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