

ROM 242 - Put on Love - By Putting On Christ - Rom 13:8-14

Last week we learned - the founding fathers of this Nation
Patterned how we should act as citizens - right out of God's Word

& today, we'll see WHY

This country was founded on the Bible
because the Bible makes the greatest citizens in the world

Christianity is the Highest & Best Form of Governing the people
of ANY society

Because the Government of Jesus Christ
Compels every Christian, to live in HARMONY with one another

& so today - continuing somewhat in that same vain

We're going to see how
the Radical New Commandment of LOVE

Effects EVERY relationship in our life

& we're going to see
the only way to "Put On" this Radical New Love

Is by - "Putting on Christ"

Let's Pray

Let's **start** today - in **John Ch 13**

In **Jn 13** - At the beginning of the **upper room** discourse

Jesus **FIRST** - washed the feet of **EVERY** Disciple
including Judas Iscariot's - whom He knew would Betray Him

then He **taught** them about Sacrificial Leadership

& then - in **John 13:34** - Jesus sets out a NEW COMMANDMENT

for how **ALL** of His disciples are called
to live out their lives among one another

Jn 13:34-35 - ESV

***34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another:
just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.***

***35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you
have love for one another.”***

Jesus told His disciples (including us)

if we will have **HIS LOVE** for one another
that **ALL PEOPLE** would know - that we are His disciples

THAT is how Radical this New Commandment of LOVE was

R.Kent Hughes quotes the great preacher of the 1800's

Alexander Maclaren;

When these words were spoken, the then-known world was cleft by great, deep gulfs of separation, like the crevasses in a glacier. . . By comparison, our racial animosities and class differences are merely superficial cracks. Then, language, religion, national animosities, and differences of sex, split the world up into alien fragments. . . The learned and the unlearned, the slave and the master, . . . the man and the woman, each stood on opposite sides of the gulf, flinging hostilities across at each other

But then - Jesus gave His Radical new commandment to love one another - & Christianity began to spread

Alexander Maclaren comments further;

*. . . [Now] **bond and free, male and female, Jew and Greek, learned and unlearned, all clasped hands and sat at one table, and felt themselves all “one in Christ Jesus.” They were ready to break all other bonds, and to yield to the uniting forces that streamed out from His cross. There never had been anything like it. . . a new thing had come into the world - a community of believers held together by love alone.***

That Radical LOVE for one another - is what proved to the world who the followers of Christ really were

& that Radical New Commandment - still stands today
& each of US are still - equally called to it

& so we MUST ask ourselves - Can the world distinguish US today
BY OUR LOVE for one another

It is this radical command - that we Love one another
"In The Same Way" that Christ loved us
that makes Christianity the BEST foundation for any society

But **guess what** - this Radical LOVE for one another
& this Ultimate Citizenship

is still just LAUNCHING out
of our "**Be Transformed**" verses of Rom 12:1-2

But - as we head back there - let's stop at Rom 5:5

Everything God requires of us
He gives us both - the ABILITY & the POWER to perform

& Rom 5:5 is BOTH - the Ability - & the Power
to live out this radical New Commandment of Love

Rom 5:5(B) - ESV

5 and hope does not put us to shame, because ***God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.***

The ABILITY - is God's Love poured into our hearts
The POWER - is by the Holy Spirit who's been Given to us

God has NOT called us to "Try Harder" - or to just "Get Along"

God has called us to Crucify our "Self-Life"

So He can FILL US with the supernatural ability
to love JUST AS He has loved us

HOW does that happen?

Well - **like everything** in this last section of Rom's
it is **ONLY** possible - **IF** - & - **AS** - we conform to **Rom 12:1-2**

Turn - Rom 12:1-2 - ESV

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. [offering the totality of our self to be consumed by God as a sacrifice]

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

HOW - do we access the **ABILITY** & the **POWER**
to **Love** one another **JUST AS** Christ loved us?

By **DAILY** *presenting ourselves* as a living sacrifice to God,
By **DAILY** *being transformed* by the renewing of our minds

& if **WE** will do that - then this *Radical Love*
will begin to **show up** in our lives

Because - God's already done His part - He's given us all we need
He's given us HIS **Agape Love**
He's given us HIS **Power** in the **Holy Spirit**

AND - - - He's given us the **Definition**
of what this Love - *looks like*

The definition of God's Love can be seen thruout the Bible
but it is **ENCAPSULATED** in the "**Love Chapter**" - **1COR 13**

Now - one of my **favorite methods** of Bible study

is to **replace** key words in a Vs.
with the **Definitions** of the original GK words

I've done that today with **1Cor 13:4-7** (the Love Vs's)
which BTW - are NOT just for Weddings

They are for **WHATEVER** relationship you are in
Marriage - Parents - Church - Work - School - Gov't

The Love of the **Radical New Commandment** Jesus gave
is defined in **1Cor 13:4-7**

BUT PLEASE - **Don't** just listen to these vs's
like they're some kind of **Idealistic Poem**

PLEASE apply these Vs's - right now

Apply them to **the relationship**
that the Holy Spirit will **bring up** to your mind (Pray)

"Dave's Paraphrase" of 1Cor 13:4-7

4 Love has **patience** with imperfect people.

Love is active in **doing good** for others.

Love is **non-possessive**, and **non-competitive**.

Loves **esteems others** higher than itself.

Love is **modest** and **unassuming**.

Love is **not pretentious**.

5 Love is **courteous**.

Love does **not insist** on its own rights,

Love does **not demand** preference.

Love is not selfish.

Love is not irritable, or hostile.

Love is graceful under pressure.

Love does not keep an account of wrongs done to it.

Love erases resentment.

6 Love does not find satisfaction in the shortcomings of others.

Love aggressively promotes the good.

7 Love defends others, and holds them up.

Love credits others with good intentions, and is not suspicious.

Love never gives up on people.

Love perseveres, and remains loyal to the end.

8 Love never fails.

That is what the Radical New Love Commandment - looks like

& the **only way** for us to ever Love like **THAT**

is to **DAILY** - offer ourselves - as a Living Sacrifice to God

& to **DAILY** - Be Transformed by the Renewing of our mind

AND - as we **finally** get to **today's** text in **Rom 13**

Paul is going to tell us - this love fulfills ALL of the law

Rom 13:8 - ESV

8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

last week - the previous Vs (7) said

Pay to all what is owed them

Taxes, Revenue, Respect, & Honor

& then **Vs. 8** says - **IN FACT**

Owe no one **Anything** - Except to Love one another

Paul's *not* really talking here about Personal Finances
except to say that you should pay people what you owe them

But he's using the CONCEPT of "The Burden of Debt"

to convey the REQUIREMENT we have
to love one another JUST AS Christ has loved us

That - is our OVERWHELMING NEW DEBT

It's a debt that you owe every person,
It's a debt that requires constant payment,
It's a debt that will never be fully satisfied

Paul is using the concept of the BURDEN of Debt

to impress upon us the BURDEN that we have
to love one another JUST AS Christ loved us

Think about it - - How do you feel around a person
that you owe a debt to

Be honest - I don't care if it's 10 bucks or 10 grand

When you get around that person you owe money to
your debt becomes a BURDEN to you - it WEIGHS heavy on you

& you think - ***oh man - I have GOT to figure out a way
to pay this person what I owe them***

NOW - if you DON'T feel that burden
then you have a different problem

But **Rom 13:8** - is saying that our **DEBT** of Agape Love
that we **OWE** to every person around us
should be a **HEAVY BURDEN** on us

So that we would say - **Man, I have GOT to pay that person
the DEBT of Agape LOVE that I owe them**

AND here's the *cool thing* - as you pay that **Debt of LOVE**

you will actually **be fulfilling**
ALL of the *horizontal commands* of the law

Rom 13:9-10 - ESV

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.”

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

Well - **THAT'S** pretty simple - isn't it ?

This *level of Love* is the **Fulfilling** of the Law

But (of course) - this *level of Love*
is actually the **Life of Jesus** - living in you

BTW - the word **'Neighbor'** here - means **LIT** - "**One unlike yourself**"

In **Exo 20** - the 10 commandments - were grouped into **2 divisions**
vertical commands – give us a right relationship w/ God
horizontal commands - give us a right relationship w/ Others

By N.T. times - the Jews had **added 613** of their own laws for a **total of 623**

& **when** they tried to **trap Jesus** by *asking Him* which was *the greatest* of the commands

He made it all perfectly clear in Mat 22:37-40 (turn)

37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

38 This is the great and first commandment.

39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Both of these Commandments

were actually taken - **Right out of** the Law

The **1st** Great Command - is quoting **DUET 6:5**

The **2nd** Great Command - is quoting **LEV 19:18**

But Jesus made it perfectly clear

If we will **LOVE GOD** with **ALL** our heart, soul, & mind then we will **FULFILL ALL** of the Vertical Commandments

If we will **LOVE OTHERS** in such a way that we Esteem **THEM AS high**, or higher, than ourselves

then we will **FULFILL ALL** of the Horizontal Commands

THAT'S how **RADICAL** - this New Commandment of Love is

But let me **say again**

WE **Don't have** this *Radical Love* in Ourselves

This love must be poured out into our hearts
by the *Holy Spirit* (**Rom 5:5**)

& **IF we** will present the totality of ourselves to God
as a Living sacrifice

& **IF we** will allow God to transform us
by the *Renewing* of our mind

THEN - His supernatural love - will bring us into
a right *vertical* relationship with God
& right *horizontal* relationships with Others

MAN - That is incredible - isn't it ?

It's **Incredible** & Supernatural

& in the next **Vs** - Paul is going to Drive Home
the **URGENCY** of us loving one another at **THIS** level

Rom 13:11-12 - ESV

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.

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.

Again - V.11 says - ***you know the time***,

This GK Word for **TIME** means - The **TYPE** or **KIND** of time
meaning the **KIND** of time we are living in

& **if** God sent **this level** of *Urgency*
to the 1st century Christians in ROME

HOW MUCH MORE - NOW - in the **KIND of time** we live in today

It's like **that little boy**
who always **counted** the strikes of the clock

& **one day** at lunch
the clock began to strike, & he **counted** with it

But **something happened**
& as the little boy counted 10 – 11 – 12 . . . 13 - 14 ??

So the boy **jumped up** from the table
and ran to his mom **yelling**

Mommy, Mommy – ***It's later than it's ever been before !!!***

& **God is telling us** – “*It's later than it's ever been before!*”

Our salvation is nearer to us now - than when we first believed (11)
The night is far gone; the day is at hand (12)

SO THEN . . .

SO THEN (V.12 says) - So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

What **do I do** with this **RADICAL** New LOVE Command
& with this **RADICAL** sense of Urgency

What do I do ??

**BE TRANSFORMED - By CASTING OFF the works of darkness
& Putting ON the armor of LIGHT**

The **Transformation Process** IS a supernatural work
of God's grace in our lives

HOWEVER - we have a "PART" - a responsibility
to cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light

This responsibility we have
is called the "**Put Off - Put On**" theology

& we've **been hearing** about it all thru Romans

Listen for the "**Put Off - Put On**" theology
as I read just 3 vs's from ROM's

Rom 6:13 - ESV

13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

Rom 8:13 - ESV

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

& in our text today – Rom 13:12 - ESV

. . . So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

The "***Put Off - Put On***" theology is all thru the NT
& it is the **OUR-PART** - of Living the Transformed life

God has given us everything we need
to **give** His Agape love to those around us
to **put off** the Flesh & the Works of Darkness
to **put on** the Spirit & the Armor of Light

UNFORTUNATELY – He's also given us *the choice*

To either **Be Transformed** by the renewing of our minds - OR
To continue to **Let Sin Destroy** our lives

Guys - **if our lives** are going to truly **CHANGE**
we must be **TRANSFORMED**

& if we are truly going to **be Transformed** - we MUST
CAST OFF the works of Darkness - & **PUT ON** the Armor of Light

Let's read **Rom 13:12-13** together - **ESV**

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 [decently] as in the daytime [light], not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

**drunkenness, sexual immorality,
sensuality, quarreling, jealousy . . .**

That's a **PARTIAL LIST** - of what we're feeding our Children
on Prime Time TV

& it pretty much **describes** - our **culture**

We are in a **WAR** - Not just a War for our Nation,
or our Christian Heritage

We are in a **WAR WITHIN** - Within **EACH** of our lives

& IF we are going to Be Transformed

there is something we must **CAST OFF**

there is something we must **PUT ON**

& **THAT** truth - causes a **WAR** - Within Each of Us

A War that must be Battled **ONE THOUGHT** at a **TIME**

2Cor 10:4-5 - ESV

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. [strongholds of the mind]

5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

WHY do we fight this Battle ?

Because Jesus Christ IS our LORD

& our salvation is nearer now - than when we first believed

& we UNDERSTAND

to **NOT** cast off the Works of Darkness - Leads to **DEATH**
but to **PUT ON** the Armor of Light - Leads to **LIFE**

& tho it is the opposite - of what the World is selling us

We **KNOW** - Who is in charge of **This World** - AND

We **KNOW** - Who is in charge of **Eternal Life**

& We have made our Choice - ***NO KING, BUT KING JESUS***

& If that is **YOUR CHOICE** today - then our last Vs
tells you exactly what to do

Rom 13:14 → →

Rom 13:14 - ESV

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

To "**Put On**" Jesus Christ

means to "**Clothe**" yourself with Him

so that you **live** & **move** & have your **being** *in Him*

You do that by Immersing yourself in Him

in *DAILY* Surrendered **PRAYER**

in *DAILY* Genuine **WORSHIP**

in *DAILY* Consuming of **THE WORD**

Again - Rom 13:14 says

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

When we **MAKE Provision** for the flesh - We **SIN**

When we make **NO Provision** for the flesh - We Live in the Spirit

We are called to Crucify our Flesh - by **STARVING** it !

Do you want to **PUT ON** the Radical Love
of the New Commandment

Then **PUT ON** *the Lord Jesus Christ*

Do you want to **CAST OFF** the Works of Darkness
& **Put on** The Armor of Light?

Then ***make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires***

The **ONLY way** we can Put On
this radical New Commandment of LOVE

is by - **Putting On** CHRIST - & Making **No Provision** for the Flesh

Let's Pray

1Cor 11:23-26 - NKJ

***23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you:
that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed
took bread;***

***24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take,
eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in
remembrance of Me."***

***25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as
you drink it, in remembrance of Me."***

***26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.***