

THE WILL OF GOD
Hope Inspires Love and Holiness
Romans 13:8-14

Big Idea: As we anticipate Christ's return, we will love our neighbor and live holy lives.

Romans 8:24-25

24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?
25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

I. Hope inspires us to love our neighbor (13:8-10).

A. Love is a good debt (v. 8ab).

8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other,

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

9 Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, 10 for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more,

B. Love fulfills the law (v. 8c, 10b).

"for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." (v. 8c)

C. Love does no wrong to its neighbor (vv. 9-10).

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

- Prohibitions against harming your neighbor (v. 9).

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."

Leviticus 19:18

18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Ephesians 5:1-3

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

If love is cut free from any commandments, it easily dissolves into sentimentality, and virtually any course of action can be defended as "loving." **Schreiner, T. R.**

II. Hope inspires us to live holy lives (13:11-14).

A. We know the time (vv. 11b-12ab).

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.

___ - Hope inspires holiness (Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 3:1-5; 1 Thess. 1-11; James 5:7-9; 2 Peter 3:10-14; 1 John 3:2-3).

1 John 3:2-3

2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

B. Knowing the time influences how we live (vv. 11a, 12c-14).

(1) Wake up (v. 11)

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.

(2) Get dressed (v. 12)

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.

- Neg. > "So let us cast off the works of darkness" (v. 12b)

- Pos. > "and put on the armor of light." (v. 12c)

(3) Go to war (vv. 13-14)

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

▪ **Let your character reflect light, not darkness (v. 13).**

- Pos. > "Let us walk properly as in the daytime," (v. 13a)

Colossians 1:13-14

13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- Neg. > "not in, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy." (v. 13b)

▪ **Give thought to Christ and not the desires of your flesh (v. 14).**

- Pos. > "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ," (v. 14a)

Galatians 3:27

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Colossians 3:1-5

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

1 John 2:4-6

4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

- Neg. > "and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." (v. 14b).

Romans 12:17

17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

James 1:14-15

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.