

Love Your Neighbor

Rom 13:8-14

8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he 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 bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

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

Paul assigns a high value on love

The Jews tried to fulfill the law but always failed.

Now Paul is says, don't owe anyone anything but the debt of love.

James says something similar in chapter 2. He says that we fulfill the royal law when we love our neighbor as ourselves.

Which is easier for us, to try to keep the 613 laws of the O.T. or

- to love one another!

We may read verse 8 and say,

- well it's saying not to be in debt.
- So I should pay all of my bills.

And yes,

- we don't want to be in debt.

But don't purchase beyond your needs.

1 Tim 6:6-7

6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

then in verse 8 Paul says that as long as we have food and clothing we should be content.

Paul exhorted believers in the previous verse of Romans 13 verse 7:

- 7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.
- The only true debt we have is to **love one another!**

Rom 13:9

9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

When the law came, it came in negatives,

Then Jesus put a positive twist on things,

- He said, **do to others as you'd have them do to you.**

Prov 15:1-2

1 A soft answer turns away wrath,
But a harsh word stirs up anger.

2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly,
But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

Are we giving a **soft answer** or are we harsh with **our words?**

Do we **use knowledge rightly** or do we **pour forth foolishness?**

In Matthew chapter 22, a lawyer began questioning Him about which is the greatest commandment of the law.

Matt 22:37-40

37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

In Romans 1:

Paul pointed out that there is only one debt that remained. He said in verse 14 that he was a debtor in terms of getting the gospel out.

Jesus Himself said that

- there is no greater love than to
- lay your life down for another.

Paul continued his journey of spreading the gospel

- because of the debt of love,

Love is not the end of the law,

Rom 8:3 & 4 Paul said

- that the law would be fulfilled
- **not by us but in us.**

10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love (perfectly, completely) is the fulfillment of the law.

We should abide by the following principles:

1 Cor 13:4-7

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Now, let's look at our relationship to these last days.

Rom 13:11

11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

it is high time (Paul is **speaking of a strategic or critical time** and **now it's a time for spiritual vigilance**)

for what!

to awake out of sleep (spiritual laziness);

for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

1 Thess 5:4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

1 Thess 5:6-8

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober,)

Psa 119:16

16 I will delight myself in Your statutes;
I will not forget Your word.

What will be the signs of the last days?

- Men will be lovers of self.
- And the love of many will wax cold.

1 Pet 4:17 says that the time has come that judgement must begin at the house of God.

If this begins with us, imagine where it will end for those that are in disobedience to Him!

12 The night is far spent (it's fading away), the day is at hand (the early dawn). Therefore let us cast off (to put off) the works of darkness,

Matt 5:30

And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.)

Then Paul says, and let us put on the armor of light.

Let's get suited up for the day that's coming.

- We should lift our eyes in these last days
- because we have hope.

In verses 11 and 12

- Paul is **using figurative speech** that was familiar to the **Roman soldiers**.

We know from Eph 6 that **we need to be strong in the Lord in the power of His might with the whole armor of God.**

Then Paul tells them in verses 13 and 14 to grow up!

Paul is saying,

- I've told you which pitfalls to avoid
- now he shows them how to avoid those pitfalls.

We have to **put on our Christian character** which is called the **armor of light**.

Jesus said in John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Jesus also said that the believer is the **salt and light of the world**.

Matt 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light

to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Now In verse 13 Paul mentions 6 different sins that are meant to be in pairs.

13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

Revelry - obnoxious.

Paul is saying, don't be obnoxious!

and drunkenness,

The Epicureans in Paul's day

- were philosophers and they had a motto,
- eat drink and be merry.

In other words,

- let's get drunk.

Next in verse 13 Paul says, don't walk in lewdness and lust (speaking about sexual immorality.)

Lewdness simply put is an

- open display of profanity.

During those days,

- there were many prostitutes,
- literally thousands of prostitutes in the city of Rome,
- Ephesus, Corinth and many other cities.

The prostitutes were temple prostitutes.

- They seduced men in order to fund the temple.

Rom 7:15-18 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells;

Paul says in Galatians 5:16-17

16 I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Listen, when we're living by the Spirit then we are enabled to resist the sinful desires of the flesh Gal 5:22-24.

That's why Paul says in verses 11-13 to **wake up**.

Be prepared: Parable of 10 virgins, Matt 25.

1 Thessalonians 5, the first 11 verses tell us that the Lord will come as a thief in the night.

Rom 13:11-12

After Paul tells them in verse 11 to wake up

- he then tells them in verse 12 to clean up.
- Get your act together.

Then he says that we shouldn't walk in strife and envy.

We often blame others,

- neglect others,
- we want to be in the front,
- we want to be first

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

In Col 3:8-14 Paul is saying **now is the time**. Make no provision for the flesh. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus made no provision for the flesh. Our problem is that we don't keep the crucified life in front of us.

We can't give any opportunity to the enemy.

I need God's word abiding in me!

Rom 14:1-4

14 Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. 2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. 3 Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. 4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

1 Receive one who is weak in the faith
Paul uses a definite article in "**the faith**".

This means that he's talking about

- the whole body of faith
- not just faith in general,

So he talking about “the faith” as a body of teaching.

- Christian world view.

Not all Christians have the same world view

So how are they to get along because it’s all relational.

He’s talking about the liberty of your conscience.

- He’s talking about an assurance of faith
- based on **your understanding** of scripture,

The more time we spend with the Lord

- the more your feeding your conscience to **do** the right thing.

And the less you’re in the word

- and more in the world system then
- your conscience will be a little different,

There are 4 different groups of people that may be identified here.

Some say he was writing to ex idolaters because of 1 cor 8.

Then some say, no, he was writing to the aesthetics

- That was a branch of idolatry dealing with the nature of beauty.

Then there is another group of people that say that

- Paul was writing to the legalistic Christian

Then a fourth group comes along and says,

- no he’s writing to Jewish Christians,

Then Paul says:

but not to disputes over doubtful things

things. It’s very important that we stick to the essential things of the faith.