

Series: Community and Diversity; *Sermon:* **Love Each Other**
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* **November 13, 2016**

Bible text explored: Romans 13:8–14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For 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.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides 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. ¹²The 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. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. [ESV]

The previous paragraph (Rom. 13:1-7) addressed the Christian’s relations at the macro level—with authorities. Today’s text turns to relations at the micro level—with neighbors.

Review and application:

1. How does Paul make the transition (*Rom. 13:6-8*) with the concept of our obligation to leave no debts outstanding?
2. In what sense (*v. 8, above*) is love a debt?
Is it one that ever be fully paid up?
3. Paul refers (*v. 9*) to the final commands of the Decalogue that address human relationships (See also *Exod. 20:13-17*). How (*vv. 8b and 10*) is loving my neighbor fulfilling the law? (See *Luke 10:25-28*.)
4. Some today assert that the love-your-neighbor-as-yourself summary of the law’s requirements is a command to love yourself. Why is this a mistaken view?
5. How did Jesus make sure that the expert in religious law could not get away with claiming general love for humanity?
(See *Luke 10:29-37*, especially verses 29 and 36-37.)
Pastor Moody challenged us to test our love for others by thinking of one particular person. How do I measure up, by that test, on discharging the debt of love that Jesus prescribed? (See *Matt. 7:12*.)
6. Why (*v. 11*) should the stage of salvation history we are in make us wide awake?
What still-future aspect of our salvation is approaching?
7. How should this perspective (*vv. 12-13*) influence us to live as though constantly in the public eye?
8. What is meant (*v. 14*) by putting on the Lord Jesus?
How will this keep me from entertaining sinful thoughts?

10. Can I confidently affirm that the power of the person of Christ is shaping who I am and increasingly becoming?