

Romans: Unashamed; the righteous shall live by faith

Romans 13:8–14 Prt 37

MPS: Live in love, walk in the light

WELCOME:

INTRO:

The most frequented theme in Romans 12–14 is *love*.

Here in Romans 13 Paul shows the relationship between love and law.

OPEN:

Your theology determines biography

- We have been saved – justification saved from penalty of sin
 - **Romans 8:1 (ESV) 1** *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*
- We are being saved – sanctification saved from power of sin
 - **1 Corinthians 1:18 (ESV) 18** *For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*
- We will be saved – glorification saved from presence of sin
 - **1 John 3:2 (ESV) 2** *but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*

Paul gives a two-fold insight into a transformed life as God sanctifies us as He saves us from the power of sin.

Live in love, walk in the light

1. Live in love

Vs 8a *Owe no one anything, except to love each other,*

- This verse is not a proof text for never taking out a loan.
- Though Jesus handled our sin debt, we now have a new debt, a love debt. We are in debt to love others until we die.
- After reading 11 chapters of the gospel and how God loves us, we live love like he loved us.

Vs 8b *for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.*

- Antinomianism literally means “anti-lawism.” It denies or downplays the significance of God’s law in the life of the believer. It is the opposite of its twin heresy, legalism. Some believe that they no longer are obligated to keep the moral law of God because Jesus has freed them from it. They insist that grace not only frees us from the curse of God’s law but delivers us from any obligation to obey God’s law. Grace then becomes a license for disobedience.
- Love is not sentimentality – its based on something else! It’s in relation to the law. How do you love?

Vs 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.”*

These are horizontal commands.

Adultery –

Murder –

Steal –

Covet –

- Love is a two-sided coin.
- Don’t commit adultery, murder, steal or covet.
- Do love your neighbor as yourself
- Who is your neighbor? Anyone in need.
- Paul’s citation (in v. 9) of Leviticus 19:18 shows that love is also more than *not* violating God’s commands. Love involves *looking for ways to bless your neighbor*.

Leviticus 19:18 (ESV) 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.*

- The original verse ties in chapter 12 to not take vengeance on another. We don’t owe them a payback; we owe them love.
- Jesus sums up the ten commandments with love the Lord with all your heart, mind soul.

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

- Same two-sided coin of love – don’t do wrong, do right by letting the law teach you to love.

- The law is an extension of God's character – like sunrays from the sun is the law of God radiating an unstoppable radiating love for his people.

2. Walk in the light

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.

- Sleep: Spiritual apathy and lethargy, carelessness, laxity, i.e. unresponsiveness to the things of God
- Salvation here means a future salvation – glorification
- You are putting on the protective armor of light through your spiritual disciplines.
- Armor protects us in battle – armor of light “stresses that developing positive spiritual graces, not merely rejecting vices, is essential to spiritual defense.”
- Soon the morning star will appear, Revelation 22 the last name that Jesus calls himself, the bright and morning star.
- This is about faith and repentance.
- Take off your pajamas when you wake up and put on your clothes for the day –

Vs 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.

- In orgies and drunkenness
 - Paul is most likely referring to the Greco Roman symposias, which were basically these after dinner parties that included excessive drinking and all manner of sexual sin.
 - There was also a whole culture of idolatry, which included this sort of thing
 - Wild partying is a good way to say it.
- Sexual immorality and sensuality
 - Somewhat kin to the orgies and drunkenness
 - Today pornography, gross fetishes, perversion, making sex and sexuality an idol – everything revolves around it, can't get enough, never satisfied
- Quarreling and jealousy
 - Fighting for fighting sake – in order to win

- Making a point instead of making a difference
- SM Highlight reels
- Really, we need to learn to be content in every situation

Vs14 *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*

- We're "putting on" the personhood and attitude that Christ has *toward us*...
- Putting on Christ is like putting on a uniform Sports, medical field, police officer. Military, Etc.
- If you are the officer, you put on the uniform – before you put on the uniform, you have to take off civilian clothes.
- We take off everything contrary to Christ – we put on everything consistent with Him.
- Put on the practices that are consistent with your new position – practice your position

CONCLUSION:

Augustine lived from 354 to 430AD

Between Paul and Luther, perhaps the greatest church leader in Christian history.

Yet, before his conversion, he was enslaved to lust and sexual sin, enslaved to vanity, to the praise of people, he stole, but God transformed Augustine.

He was 32 years old, spending time with a friend in Milan.

"I flung myself down beneath a fig tree and gave way to the tears which now streamed from my eyes . . . In my misery I kept crying, "How long shall I go on saying 'tomorrow, tomorrow'? Why not now? Why not make an end of my ugly sins at this moment?" . . . All at once I heard the singing voice of a child in a nearby house. Whether it was the voice of a boy or a girl I cannot say, but again and again it repeated the refrain 'Take it and read, take it and read.' At this I looked up, thinking hard whether there was any kind of game in which children used to chant words like these, but I could not remember ever hearing them before. I stopped my flood of tears and stood up, telling myself that this could only be a divine command to open my book of Scripture and read the first passage on which my eyes should fall.

So I hurried back to the place where Alypius was sitting . . . seized [the book of Paul's epistles] and opened it, and in silence I read the first passage on which my eyes fell: "**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.* **Romans 13:13–14**

I had no wish to read more and no need to do so. For in an instant, as I came to the end of the sentence, it was as though the light of confidence flooded into my heart and all the darkness of doubt was dispelled."

How sweet all at once it was for me to be rid of *those fruitless joys* which I had once feared to lose . . ! *You drove them from me*, you who are the true, the *sovereign joy*. [You drove them from me and took their place, you who are *sweeter than all pleasure*... O Lord my God, my Light, my Wealth, and my Salvation.

"You made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." Augustine

Nobody loved their neighbor like Jesus all the way to the cross, perfectly fulfilling God's law.

He lived in the light, and then Jesus experienced the darkness of judgment that you and I deserve that we may live in the light.

And now he has given us new affections, new joys, new desires for himself.

So we can say with Augustine, , it was as though the light of confidence flooded into my heart and all the darkness of doubt was dispelled."

PRAYER TIME:

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

God , thank you though I've done nothing to earn it, you lavished love on me.

Jesus, thank you for fulfilling the law in my place and loved me by saving me.

Lord, I believe you have loved me, and are willing to save me – save me today.

Vs 9 *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

Loved people love people?

Who do I need to forgive?

Who do I need to reconcile with?

Who can I do good to?

Who is someone in need, my neighbor, that I need to generously give to

Lord, give me grace and strength to love _____.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS:

1. What does it mean for us to *Owe no one anything, except to love each other*?
2. How do we love others?
3. Take time to pray for someone you need to love (Consider someone that you find difficult to love)...then, pray that you will have the strength and grace to 'own no one anything, except to love them'