

Romans 13:8-14

Fulfilling the Law through Love

13:8-14 - 8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one 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 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. **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. **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.

- a. 8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.
 - a. It is a rapid transition from government obligations to brotherly obligations.
 - b. Having debts may not be prohibited, but failing to pay debts is prohibited.
 - c. Love is a cornerstone characteristic of any Christian (Rom. 12:9) and through love the law is fulfilled.
- b. 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.”
 - a. Matt. 22:36-40 - **36** “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” **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.”
- c. 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

- d. 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.
 - a. How we behave toward a neighbor, brother, or governor, is controlled by two things:
 - i. Love (13:8-10)
 - ii. The nearness of eternity
 - 1. It isn't that Paul was expecting an eminent return, but that every passing moment brings us closer than when we first believed.
 - 2. Eph. 5:15-16 - 15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.
 - a. Many allurements and temptations that would lead us away from the proper use of time, even draw us into sin.
 - b. wake from sleep
 - i. Leave walking in darkness and walk in the light because eternal day is coming. This especially makes sense when you consider the following verses (12-13).
- e. 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 as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.
 - a. Eph 6:10-18 - 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ...
 - b. (Notes below on the armor of God)
- f. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
 - a. Be dressed for the day rather than night-life.
 - b. Note "put on the armor of light" (12) and "put on the Lord Jesus Christ (14).
 - c. Being clothed with Christ from head to foot will leave no provision for the flesh.

Notes on the Whole Armor of God (Eph. 6:10-18)

- a. Rom. 13:12b - put on the armor of light
- b. Eph. 6:11 - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.
 - a. A primary purpose of the armor of God is to resist the devil, so that he will flee from you.
- c. Eph 6:14-18 - 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,
 - a. A belt holds the other pieces of clothing and armor together. It secures the outfit and allows a soldier to move freely.
 - i. One of Satan's greatest offensive tactics is to deceive us; he is the "father of lies" (John 8:44). With the belt of truth around our waists, we are prepared to defend against this.
 - ii. Creating doubt is the oldest trick in Satan's bag.
 - 1. Genesis 3:1b - "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"
 - iii. Truth is fundamental.
 - 1. John 17:17 - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
 - 2. Truth gives consistency and strength to our conduct.
 - 3. A man who has no consistent views of truth, is just the man for the adversary successfully to assail.
 - 4. Be so familiar with the authentic that the counterfeit will be easy to spot.
 - b. The breastplate of righteousness covers our hearts and other vital organs. In this sense, the breastplate covers the most vulnerable areas of a warrior.
 - i. Proverbs 4:23 - Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.
 - ii. Philippians 3:9 - and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—
- d. 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

- a. Move your feet to spread the gospel.
- b. 1 Pet. 3:15 - but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,
- e. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;
 - a. Faith will deflect temptation, stop it before it strikes a vital organ.
 - b. We cannot earnestly contend for or defend against something we do not trust.
- f. 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,
 - a. 1 Thess. 5:8 - But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.
 - i. 1 Cor. 13:13 - So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
 - ii. Eph. 1:18 - having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
 - iii. Eph. 4:4 - There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—
 - b. The sword of the Spirit is the word of God, revealed to us by those who wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit.
 - i. It was with the word of God that the Savior met the tempter in the wilderness.
 - ii. We must study the Bible, that we may understand what the truth is.
 - iii. We should have texts of Scripture at command, as the Savior did, to meet the various forms of temptation.
 - iv. We should not depend on our own reason, or rely on our own wisdom.
 - v. A single text of Scripture is better to meet a temptation, than all the philosophy which the world contains. The tempter can

reason, and reason plausibly too. But he cannot resist a direct and positive command of God.

- g. 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,
 - a. Not as a last resort, but at all times, use the most powerful piece of armor for yourself and for all the saints.