

ROMANS 13:8-14

Living in Love and Light as We Await the Coming of the Lord

I. The Essential Priority of Love

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

The priority of living free of all personal debt

The priority of living with a debt we can never fully pay

The priority of the Law is summarized by _____ others.

Jesus is the one who redefined the _____. (Matt 22:37-40)

"another" = those who are like [allos] us and those who are different [heteros] than us

"neighbor" = anyone with a legitimate need whom God has put in my path, or which He has given me the resources to meet that need

II. The Urgent Pursuit of the Light

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

There is a need to understand God's _____ in order to live in the _____ every day.



_____ The **TIME** of the Lord's coming is nearer than ever before.

_____ There is a need to engage the spiritual battle in the armor of **LIGHT**.

_____ Every day we can glorify **CHRIST** rather than gratify the flesh.

In Light
of
Christ

"[Paul] goes on to speak of the one debt that must be paid every day, and yet, at the same time, must continue to be owed every day—the debt to love one another. It is Paul's claim that if people honestly seek to discharge this debt of love, they will automatically keep all the commandments. ... Christians will not kill, for love never seeks to destroy, but always to build up; it is always kind and will always seek to destroy enemies not by killing them, but by seeking to make friends of them. Christians will never steal, for love is always more concerned with giving than with getting. They will not covet, for covetousness is the uncontrolled desire for what is forbidden, and love cleanses the heart, until that desire is gone."

WILLIAM BARCLAY

"Christians do have a debt that continues forever: 'to love one another.' This debt is our obligation to seek the welfare of our fellow human beings (cf. 8:4). The Mosaic Law required the same thing (Lev 19:18, cf. Matt 22:39), but it provided no internal power to love. In Christ, however, we have the indwelling Holy Spirit, who produces love within us as a fruit of His life (Gal 5:22-23)."

TOM CONSTABLE

"For Paul, love embodied the highest ideals of the new kingdom, which Jesus will establish and enforce upon His return to Earth. At that time, God's original created order will be restored. In the meantime, the apostle desired that all believers become living examples of this new kingdom. Just like in the beginning, before the Fall, people are to be righteous because He is righteous. They are to love one another because God is love. They are to live according to the truth because God is truth. As we are transformed to fulfill God's original vision for creation, the world should also be transformed—even if only a little—because of our influence."

CHARLES SWINDOLL

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Romans 13:8-14. We sometimes think of law as being harsh and unyielding, while we see love as soft and flexible. Yet Paul speaks of both law and love in the same paragraph (vv. 8-10). How does Paul define the relationship between love and the Ten Commandments given in the Old Testament (see Rom 7:6, 22; 8:4)?

2. Why is love for others called a *debt*?

3. Why should we love people beyond the basic debts of justice (vv. 11-14)?

4. In one sense, we were saved when we were justified by putting faith in Jesus. However, in what sense has our salvation not yet come, but will come soon (v. 11)? (See also Rom 5:9-10; 8:23; Phil 3:20-21; Heb 9:28; 1 Jn 3:2-3.)

5. According to verses 11-14, how are we to prepare ourselves for Christ's return? Are there some ways in which you are lacking personally?

6. What are some ways that you can "clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 14)?

GO DEEPER

Look at the last six of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:12-17. For each commandment, write down one positive, loving way it teaches us to treat our neighbors. Beside each are NT passages that comment on the commandment.

- Ex 20:12 Matt 15:1-9; Eph 6:1-4
- Ex 20:15 Lk 6:29-38; 2 Cor 9:6-11; Eph 4:28
- Ex 20:13 Matt 5:21-24
- Ex 20:16 Matt 5:33-37; Lk 21:12-19; Eph 4:25, 29, 31
- Ex 20:14 Matt 5:27-32; Eph 5:21-33
- Ex 20:17 Lk 12:22-34, 16:13; Phil 4:11-13

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

HSM ASCENT Pumped doesn't begin to express how excited our student ministry staff is to launch Ascent! This weekend event is designed for our high schoolers to engage in conversation around culturally relevant topics so they can discover what God says about their lives, choices and identity. If you're a high school student, you'll want to learn more about this upcoming opportunity! Check out the details at www.ccbcfamily.org/ascent.

THE GREEN ROOM IS BACK The BE series was an encouragement to all of us — which meant we had to have a conversation about it in the Green Room! Grab a seat, grab a friend and sit down to enjoy a behind the scenes conversation with Cody, Misty, Ben and Brooke. Watch it now at www.ccbcfamily.org/greenroom.

DATING, ENGAGED OR NEWLY MARRIED? Your relationship has the potential to speak to more than your love for one another — it can speak of Jesus. Here at Christ Chapel, we have opportunities for you to discover what it means for God's will and Word to influence love, dating and marriage by being a part of AVENEW. Learn more by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/avenew.

PARENTS, MSM WINTER CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN Winter Camp is an unforgettable weekend retreat at Sky Ranch, designed specifically for middle school students. This year's focus is on biblical integrity — helping your child discover their true identity in Christ, rather than in fleeting relationships or trends. Our goal is to empower them to honor God with their whole life. To learn more and register your student, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/wintercamp.

MSM ELF QUOTE-ALONG Get ready for some Christmas fun at our annual Elf Quote-Along! We're celebrating the season with one of our favorite holiday classics in student ministries, Elf, and we want you there to join in the laughs and cheer. Meet us at the Movie Tavern on Sunday, December 8, at 6:30 P.M. Register at www.ccbcfamily.org/elf.



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