

ROMANS
2026
Sep 27th, 2026

VIII. Living Out the Truth of the Gospel

Rom 12:3-15:13

Part 4: Rom 13:8-14 - "The Fulfillment of the Law" - Key verse: 13:10

- 1. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.** **13:8-10**

- a. The commandments** (Listed are #s 5, 6, 7, 10 of the 10 commandments - See Exd 20:1-17) **and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."**
- Love does no harm (or "*evil*") to a neighbor (Who is our neighbor? See Lke 10:25-38)
 - Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. (e.g., Gal 5:14)
- b. What law?** Mtt 22:36-40 shows the "*first and foremost commandment*" is to love the Lord your God...". The second is like it: "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*"
- The quotes Jesus gave were from Det 6:5 and Lev 19:18 - the greatest commandments.
 - There is one debt we can never pay in full and then be done with - the continuing debt to love our neighbor. You can pay off a loan but this debt is a lifetime debt. We who have received God's kindness and mercy must be merciful. And because He loves us, we must love one another (e.g., Jhn 13:34; 15:12; Gal 5:14; 1 Jhn 4:7-14; 20-21*). Teachers in Jesus' time tried to alter this - See Mtt 5:43-47.
- Our obligation to love our neighbor will never be "paid in full."***

- 2. And [do] this, understanding ("*knowing*") the present ("*already*") time:** **13:11-14**

- a. The hour has already come ("*now*") for you to wake up from your slumber,** (Lke 12:13-21; Eph 5:11-14; 1 Ths 5:4-11).
- Because our salvation is nearer now than when we [first] believed (Mtt 24:42; 1 Cor 7:29; 1 Pet 4:7).
 - The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. (See Isa 60:1-ff; Jhn 1:9; Eph 5:14; etc. for possible parallels). *The idea expressed being that this world/age is limping along on borrowed time. Whether we live out our days or remain until the Lord returns for us, we need to live for Him in the present. There is no need to fret over His return - simply seek to live for Him day to day. If we do that, we will be ready when He either comes or calls us home.*
- b. So let us put off the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.**
- Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, (e.g., Jhn 8:12; 2 Cor 4:1-4)
 - Not in carousing and drunkenness, sexual immorality and debauchery, dissension and jealousy. (See also Eph 5:11-14) *One can profess the faith all they want to, but if unrepentant sin characterizes their life, they are fooling themselves* (Gal 5:19-21).
 - Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. *How?* See Eph 4:17-32

"Wake up, Sleeper!"

God calls us to love our neighbor.

- ***Yes, we are to be good to fellow believers*** (Gal 6:10; Heb 13:16).
- ***But also to our neighbors*** (Mtt 5:7; Lke 10:25-37.)

The time to do this is now - It is later than you think!

- ***Live in light of the truth you have received.***
- ***Be proactive in seeking your growth and seeking to live out your faith. Passivity is drifting.*** (Heb 5:11-6:12; 10:19-25)