**You Shall Love Your Neighbor**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 13:8-14**

**Wednesday Evening**

**March 5, 2025**

**Romans 13:8-14**

8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he 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 bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. 11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

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

Saints, If we owe something, we should pay the debt. But we must ask, Is Paul against home mortgages and school loans?

Paul is not teaching against borrowing, except as it applies to borrowing things or money that we cannot hope to repay.

Careless or deceitful debt is not acceptable behavior among believers.

To this point Jesus adds the command that his followers ought to be known as willing lenders and givers.

**Matthew 5:42**

Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away

We are to be responsible to make payments and not borrow beyond our ability to pay.

One debt should never be paid in full, however. We should never finish paying our debt of love for others.

**John 13:34-35**

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

**Galatians 5:22-23**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

**Ephesians 5:1-2**

1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

**1 John 3:11-16**

11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. 13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

**1 John 4:7-11**

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

Saints, the commandments against adultery, murder, stealing, and coveting that Paul quotes are directly from the Ten Commandments.

They apply to our relationships with others.

**Exodus 20:12-17**

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. 13 "You shall not murder. 14 "You shall not commit adultery. 15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

Paul lists them to show that they all fit under a broader commandment: “Love your neighbor as yourself,” quoted from.

**Leviticus 19:18**

You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

When we love others, we will not purposely harm or do evil to them, so love satisfies all of God’s requirements.

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

Saints, Christians must obey the law of love, which supersedes both religious and civil laws.

**Matthew 22:37-40**

37 Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

It is easy to excuse our indifference to others merely because we have no legal obligation to help them, and even to justify harming them if our actions are technically legal!

But Jesus does not leave loopholes in the law of love.

Whenever love demands it, we are to go beyond human legal requirements and imitate the God of love.

**11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.**

Saints, Paul wants believers to realize their constant need to show love, especially considering the time—Christ’s return is near.

New Testament passages on the return of Christ center on our responsibility to be morally prepared, spiritually alert, and diligently serving.

**1 Peter 4:11**

If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**James 5:8**

You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

**1 John 2:18**

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

Believers must be vigilant, alert, and not caught unaware.

Paul knows that the old sinful nature will still cause problems from time to time, but he requires believers to wake up.

Remaining too long in a state of spiritual lethargy, where sin is tolerated and good works are not pursued, can lead to a spiritual coma, rendering us unresponsive to God.

**Ephesians 5:14**

Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

**1 Corinthians 15:34**

Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

The return of Christ and our ultimate and final salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Each day that passes brings us closer to the time of Christ’s return, when we will be taken to heaven to be with him forever.

**Mark 13:13**

And you will be hated by all men for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

**Luke 21:28**

Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

**1 Thessalonians 5:4-11**

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

**Hebrews 9:28**

so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Time is running out so we need to make every minute count for right living.

**12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.**

Saints, the night refers to the present, evil time. The day refers to the time of Christ’s return.

Believers in Paul’s day, as well as believers today, are living in the night, the time of darkness characterized by Satan’s evil work.

**2 Corinthians 4:5**

whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

**Ephesians 2:2**

in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience…

Believers must get rid of their evil deeds and clothe themselves with the armor of right living.

As Paul explains in:

**Ephesians 6:10-18**

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

Saints, this armor represents all the features that make up God’s gift of justification by faith!

**John 12:36**

While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

We should depend on God’s strength and use every resource that he has given us.

**13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.**

Saints, to put on the armor of light (13:12) means to be decent and true in everything we do, so that everyone can approve of our behavior.

The world is still in darkness, but we are to behave decently, in a way that will stand up to examination. For believers, the surrounding darkness is no excuse for indecent behavior.

The wild parties and getting drunk, the adultery and immoral living, the fighting and jealousy are examples of what does not please God; actions, activities, and attitudes that belong to the darkness.

These have no place in the believer’s life.

**Galatians 5:19-21**

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Some people are surprised that Paul lists fighting and jealousy with the gross and obvious sins of drunkenness and sexual immorality.

Like Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7), Paul considers attitudes to be as important as actions.

Just as hatred leads to murder, so jealousy leads to strife, and lust to adultery.

When Christ returns, he wants to find his people clean on the inside as well as on the outside.

**14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**

Saints, so how do we clothe ourselves “with the armor of right living”?

How can we “be decent and true”? The answer: We let the Lord Jesus Christ take control of us.

**Ephesians 4:23-24**

23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

**Colossians 3:10**

and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him…

This is deliberate, conscious acceptance of the lordship of Christ, so all our desires and actions are under his control.

Letting him have control means avoiding indulging our evil desires.

Sinful actions and sinful attitudes all start with a single thought.

Just as in violent crimes, where premeditation is a factor, premeditation is the first step toward gratifying our desires.

A temptation becomes an opportunity to plan to sin. But as harmless as imagination may seem to be, it actually impels us toward our desires. If we don’t make plans, we can’t carry them out.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**