



Love Looks Like Jesus
Romans 13:8-14

Main Idea: Fulfilling the law of God includes sharing God's love and displaying God's light.

Love fulfills the law (8-10).

- *The only debt that we should keep is the debt of love for one another (8).*
- *Love is the summary of God's law related to our relationship with others (9-10).*

"No debt to no-one for nothing." That's not good English, but that's the Southern translation of the first part of verse 8. God's counsel is clear, but it includes one important exception: "Except to love each other." Why? Because love fulfills the law! Aren't you grateful for God's wisdom in his Word? There's much wisdom in this verse, which protects our witness and directs our hearts. The only debt that we should keep is the debt of love for one another. This is a debt worth owing. It's a debt with value and return that can't be captured in dollars and cents. However, verse 8 does beg the question of how does love fulfill the law? Thankfully, verses 9-10 answer that question. If we simply consider the second half of the Ten Commandments, which deal with our relationship to others, it becomes very evident that love can be a summary of these laws. Loving your neighbor as yourself doesn't naturally lead to breaking these laws. Loving your neighbor as yourself naturally leads to fulfilling these laws. In other words, love is the summary of God's law related to our relationship with others. Love fulfills the law!

1. Use the BlueLetterBible app to study the words "owe" and "love" in verse 8. Discuss what the Lord said in this verse. What did it mean?
2. Using verses 9 and 10, how does love fulfill the law?
3. In a practical way, how have you experienced the blessing of being loved by other believers in the way that the Lord calls us to love in these verses? Share a specific example from your life, and thank the Lord for the gift of love that fulfills his law.
4. How can your class love others this week? Is there a specific need (spiritual, emotional, physical, etc.) that you can help meet?

Wake up and live in the reality that everyday is one day closer to eternity (11-14).

- *Take off the works of darkness, not leaving an inch for the flesh to hold onto (12-14).*
- *Put on the armor of light, giving everything to the Lord Jesus every day (12-14).*

Verses 11-14 are so good, aren't they? In God's graciousness, the Lord reminds us that each and every day is one day closer to the fullness of our salvation. That's a reality worth dwelling on each day, and it's a truth that should direct and inform how we live every day. In these verses, the Lord's exhortation to his people is simple: Wake up and live in the reality that everyday is one day closer to eternity. This overall exhortation also included specific information about how to wake up and live in that reality each day. As the Lord often used Paul to remind us, there is a taking off and a putting on that we must do as believers. First, we're called to take off the works of darkness, which means to put off sin in our lives, which includes everything from sexual immorality to jealousy. In fact, to cast these things off, we can't leave any room – not even an inch so to speak – for the flesh to



hold onto. Second, we're called to put on the armor of light. God's truth and righteousness is our defense and protection! Put on Jesus Christ by giving everything to the Lord Jesus every day.

1. When you stop to think about the reality that today is one day closer to the fullness of your salvation, how does that truth affect you? Why?
2. What do you think the Lord means by saying "the hour has come for you to wake from sleep?" Do you ever need waking up in this way? When, and why?
3. How do we cast off the works of darkness? Can you share a testimony of doing this in your life? How do we help one another to take off sin?
4. Have you ever left an inch – a provision – for sin to take hold in your life? How did that turn out? Do you know someone who is doing this right now? How can you share this passage and your testimony with them to exhort them to wake up?
5. How do we put on the armor of light? Can you share a testimony of doing this in your life? How do we help one another to put on Jesus Christ?