



## *Together, Loving Like Jesus*

Romans 13:8-14 – March 29<sup>th</sup> 2020  
Weekly Study Guide

*This guide, beginning with Sunday's main Bible passage, provides additional study and reflection for group discussions and/or personal study. Let this help you learn from God's Word so you and others can thrive in Christ!*

- A) How has the COVID-19 outbreak affected your job, your family, your health, your thoughts? How do you feel about that?
- B) Review Romans 13:8-14. What points of this passage, or the sermon based on it, resonated with you? How were you encouraged or challenged? What questions came up?
- C) How many commands can you find in Romans 13:9? How does the last command here undergird all those prior to it? What "law" is love fulfilling here? How does it do so?

D) What 2 concepts are contrasted in Romans 13:11-13? What does 13:12 command? How does 13:13-14 explain how to do that? How may doing this sync with the loving lifestyle prescribed in 13:8-10?

E) Look up Deuteronomy 6:5, then Leviticus 19:18. Now, compare them with Matthew 22:34-40. How do these concepts relate to Romans 13:8-10? What does Galatians 5:14 add?

F) If love is so central (Romans 13:8-10), understanding love will be essential. In Luke 10:25-37, how is love defined and lived out? How is this different from modern cultural concepts of "love?"

G) What new opportunities for "loving your neighbor" (those around you, those you know, or the literal neighbors on your block) have appeared this week? How have you responded? How might God be calling you to love your neighbors in new ways this week? Share with your group and pray for courage to live out this love!

H) What "works of darkness" (Romans 13:12-13) do you need to cast off and out of your life in order to "walk properly"? How do you plan to start that this week? How can pursuing and clinging to Jesus help? What steps can you take this week to draw closer to Christ so you'll be able to resist evil desires and temptations?



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Additional Resources

*Courageous, Jesus-type love helps, connects, and brings out our best*

### Sermon Outline

#### Introduction Notes

See a “Toilet Paper Calculator” at [howmuchtoiletpaper.com](http://howmuchtoiletpaper.com)

John 14:6

#### Four Truths of Courageous Love

##### 1) Love is what is **Owed and Right** (Romans 13:8-10)

Matthew 22:39, Leviticus 19:18, Luke 10:25-37

- i. Love through Connecting (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:11)
- ii. Love through Caring (Galatians 6:2)
- iii. Love through Doing Good/Helping (Galatians 6:10)
- iv. Love through Talking about Deep Feelings (Proverbs 20:5)
- v. Love through Compassion and Empathy (1<sup>st</sup> John 3:17)
- vi. Love through Giving (Luke 3:11)
- vii. Love through Prayer (James 5:16b)

##### 2) Love is what is **Needed Now** (Romans 13:11-12)

##### 3) Love is what is **Selfless** (Romans 13:13)

##### 4) Love is what Jesus **Does** (Romans 13:14)

Matthew 9:34-35

Matthew 8:1-3

Luke 8:40-56

#### Romans 13:11 – Can salvation develop over time?

The Apostle Paul does not use the term *salvation* only for the past event of our once-for-all justification. In Romans 13:11, Paul views salvation as a future event. Redemption is a past, present, and future reality. We were saved; we are being saved; and we will be saved. Scripture views salvation as a work that begins with *regeneration* and *justification*, continues on in *sanctification*, and then is finally brought to completion in our *glorification*, when all remnants of sin are purged from us entirely (Rom. 5:1; 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 1:18; Phil. 2:12-13; Titus 3:5).

The Lord guarantees the present and future aspects of salvation by what He has done in the past. If we have been justified, we will certainly be glorified (Rom. 8:29-30; 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:19). The future aspect of our salvation that we will enjoy in our glorification is nearer now than when we first believed (13:11). Every day, we get closer to the appointed time at which our Savior will return, remove all sin from creation, and bring us into glory!

#### Our prayer for the week

Most merciful and Triune God, we come to you in our weakness.

We come to you in our fear.

We come to you with trust.

For you alone are our hope.

We place before you the disease present in our world.

We turn to you in our time of need.

Please comfort us in this time of trouble

Bring wisdom to doctors and health care workers.

Give understanding to scientists and government leaders.

Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.

Bring healing to those who are ill.

Protect those who are most at risk.

Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.

Stabilize our communities.

Unite us in our compassion.

Remove all fear from our hearts.

Fill us with confidence in your care.

Jesus, we trust in you. Amen