

ROMANS 13:8-14

Don't be in debt to anyone, except for the obligation to love each other. Whoever loves another person has fulfilled the Law. The commandments, Don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't desire what others have, and any other commandments, are all summed up in one word: You must love your neighbor as yourself. Love doesn't do anything wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is what fulfills the Law.

As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let's get rid of actions that belong to the darkness and put on the weapons of light. Let's behave appropriately as people who live in the day, not in partying and getting drunk, not in sleeping around and obscene behavior, not in fighting and obsession. Instead, dress yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and don't plan to indulge your selfish desires.

We could think Paul means to warn us only against the external marks of the world. In another generation, preachers applied this verse to the "big four" sins: drinking, smoking, dancing, and card playing. The list of "don'ts" became so long a Christian was defined by what they didn't do. Although it's good we don't live by the law, I'm not sure dropping the rules we used to follow has produced a new wave of holiness (Pritchard, 2006).

Next week: Romans 14:1-12

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September 10, 2017

Swimming Upstream

We are obligated in the body of Christ to love! Keep God's time—wear His watch—and hold to His schedule.

There is no time to waste!

No more wasteful activities, no more lazy housekeeping (notice what is accumulating around the edges of your life!), and don't let the attributes of your relationships demonstrate lackadaisical commitment.

Instead, dress yourself with our Lord Jesus Christ!

- Put on His holiness.
- Put on His beauty.
- Put on His humility.
- Put on His purity.
- Put on His compassion.
- Put on His wisdom.
- Put on His forgiveness.
- Put on His righteousness.
- Put on His zeal.
- Put on His patience.
- Put on His faith.
- Put on His love.
- Put His words in your mouth.
- Put His peace in your heart.
- Wear His hope, and give it away. It will be replenished!

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