

Wake Up!

Romans 13:8-14

Outline for Today

- *Walking in Law, vss 1-7 (Last Week)*
- Walking in Love, vss 8-10
- Walking in Light, vss 11-14

Walking in Love, vss 8-10

- Negatively, vs 8a
 - Stop always owing (pres/imper). Never have a debt you know you can't pay off. Why? It's stealing.

Walking in Love, vss 8-10

- Negatively, vs 8a
 - Ron Blue Christian financial planner says: (if you are in this place)
 - recognize that you have a spiritual problem
 - stop buying on time.
 - reduce your expenditures to below your income.
 - sell assets to reduce your current debt.
 - pay something on each debt each month.
 - concentrate on eliminating the smallest debts first.
 - pre-commit any unexpected income to pay your debt

Walking in Love, vss 8-10

- The Bible does not forbid borrowing or legal transactions; it regulates it, Exodus 22:25-27, Matthew 5:42; Psalm 37:26; Luke 6:35.
 - Judson Taylor and Charles Spurgeon disagreed.
- The Bible forbids a debt which can never be paid off, that's sin. Financial obligations must be paid when due!
- It's in contrast with love, which can never be fulfilled.

Walking in Love, vss 8-10

- Positively, vs 8b
 - We always owe love, it never comes to closure. This is a permanent obligation. We can never say I have done all the loving I need to. Love is debt.
 - Love is for everyone based on loving your neighbor. Jesus taught in the good Samaritan that your neighbor is the one who needs mercy and you have the ability to help, Luke 10:30-35
 - If we love one another we do not violate any of God's laws regarding interpersonal relationships, Matt 7:12

Walking in Love, vss 8-10

- Fulfilling the Law with love, verse 9
 - Commit adultery - you take from your neighbors spouse: that's not love.
 - Murder - you take your neighbors life: that's not love
 - Steal - you take your neighbors property: that's not love.
 - Covet - you so wrapped up in wanting, you can't see your neighbors need. You are insensitive to the needs of other people. You only see what they have and want it: that's not love.

Walking in Love, vss 8-10

- Law always meant to be more than external commands, Matthew 23:25-28
- Love does no wrong, verse 10
 - Word wrong is word for bad thinking, feeling, acting, towards another. You give your neighbor the benefit of the doubt.
- Love in action, verse 10 (Boice)
 - Listen to one another.
 - Share (ourselves) with one another. (This is the reverse side of listening)

Walking in Love, vss 8-10

- Love in action, verse 10 (Boice)
 - Forgive one another. When we hurt one another we must say, I am sorry. But love is more than this. Love is also giving and receiving forgiveness. Ephesians 4:32
 - Serve one another. John 13:2-11
 - Every time we meet someone, we need to show him the love of Christ. We have a great and wonderful debt to pay.

Walking in Light, vs 11-14

- Wake Up, vs 11
 - Why? Ultimate salvation is near. Imminent return of Jesus
 - It is the season (time) for spiritual vigilance, 1 Pet 5:8
 - Sleep: spiritual apathy and lethargy. Unresponsive to God and our salvation.
 - Each passing day in the faith brings final salvation and deliverance closer.

Walking in Light, vs 11-14

- Get Dressed, vs 12
 - Night: time of man's depravity and Satan's dominion, 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5
 - We are in a war and need to be alert and equipped for battle, Ephesians 6:10-17
 - Dress in armor of light: an active godly life, Eph 5:18

Walking in Light, vss 11-14

- Night Time Dress, vs 13
 - A Change from warfare to lifestyle...notice that strife and jealousy are listed with sexual sins.
 - Proper: word for decent actions fitting our position; of persons of high standing in the community *prominent, reputable, honored*; which is pleasing to God.

Walking in Light, vss 11-14

- Day Time Dress, vs 14
 - Positive: put on Christ, which is symbolic of thoughts and behavior which Jesus would have. Plan **intentional** ways to show forth Christ.
 - Negative: don't be consumed about gratifying the sin nature i.e. wrong idea's and lustful desires we allow to linger in our minds.

Let us Love

- Let us cultivate a sense of debt. Just as when we owe someone money and our debt is the first thing we think of when we see him, so may it be with our debt of love.
- Let us enlarge our definition of neighbor as, “My neighbor is not necessarily someone like me. It is any person God has put in my way whom I can help.

Let us Love

- Let us cultivate a sense of the time – it is later than it has ever been before.
- Let us consciously put off the deeds of darkness (we individually know what these are) and put on Jesus – every day!

Plan of Action

- Do I try to rationalize my failure to love on the basis of “technicalities” instead of simply obeying the law of love?
- What person do I need to show the debt of love that I owe them?
- Let’s be creative in the sphere that God has put you in. As Tracy Gilmore was with the Love Packs
 - It doesn’t have to be through a church program.