

Romans

Lesson 18: Romans 13:8–14

After urging us as believers to present our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice at the beginning of chapter 12, Paul then told us that the Christian life is to be lived out in love. In 12:9 he said, “Let love be without hypocrisy.” Paul then gave practical examples of how that love is to be lived in the context of the church, among enemies, and even in relation to the governing authorities. He now continues with the theme of love in relation to the Law. Jesus gave us a summary of the Law in two commandments—love God and love your neighbor. Paul reminds the Romans of this great truth. He also urges them to do this as they think about the end of the age. We, as believers, are to walk in love and obedience to Christ especially as we think about our position in Christ and nearness of the end of the world. Let’s dive in and see how we are to live in love.

➤ **Read Romans 13:8–10**

1. According to verse 8, what are we to owe to one another?
2. In verse 8, who are we to love?
3. Read Luke 10:25–37. Who is the neighbor in the parable? How does this parable relate to Paul’s command in verse 8?

Application: Read Exodus 20:12–17. For each commandment give an example of how that teaches you to “love your neighbor.”

Exodus 20:12: _____

Exodus 20:13: _____

Exodus 20:14: _____

Exodus 20:15: _____

Exodus 20:16: _____

Exodus 20:17: _____

4. Does verse 9 give an exhaustive list of things we are to do to show love? How do you know?
5. In verse 9, Paul reiterates Leviticus 19:18, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Does this command self-love? Why or why not?
6. According to verse 10, what are the two ways Paul describes love?

Application: In verses 8–10, “the law” that Paul speaks about is the moral law or what we call the Ten Commandments. Should you strive to keep the Law? Why or why not?

Application: How does the command to keep the Law relate to salvation? Is it necessary for salvation? Why or why not?

Application: What are ways people are motivated to obey? How does love change your motivation to obey in life?

➤ **Read Romans 13:11–14**

7. According to verse 11, what does Paul mean when he says, “Do this”?

8. In verses 11 and 12, write down all the words related to time. Why does Paul use these terms?

9. In verse 12, what does Paul command us to do?

10. In verse 13, what does Paul command us to do?

Application: What are ways you have tried to live as light in this dark world? What have been the results of living this way?

11. In verse 14, what does Paul command us to do?

Application: Read Ephesians 4:20–24. What does it mean to “lay aside the old self”? What does it mean to “put on the new self”?

Application: What are sins that you need “lay aside”? Pray about those right now and ask God for strength to help you lay those aside.

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.