



Romans 13:8-14

CLOTHING YOURSELF WITH JESUS CHRIST

So was I speaking and weeping in the most bitter contrition of my heart, when, lo! I heard from a neighboring house a voice, as of boy or girl, I know not, chanting, and oft repeating, "Take up and read; Take up and read." Instantly, my countenance altered, I began to think most intently whether children were wont in any kind of play to sing such words: nor could I remember ever to have heard the like. So checking the torrent of my tears, I arose; interpreting it to be no other than a command from God to open the book, and read the first chapter I should find. ...I seized, opened, and in silence read that section on which my eyes first fell: "Not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying; but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof" [Romans 13:14]. No further would I read; nor needed I: for instantly at the end of this sentence, by a light as it were of serenity infused into my heart, all the darkness of doubt vanished away.

—Augustine (AD 354-430), *Confessions*, Book 8, Chapter 12

Romans teaches us that we are condemned by sin, saved by Jesus Christ, sanctified by the Spirit, and sovereignly chosen and loved by God. *So how do we now live this Christian life?*

Surrender Yourself to God – Don't Conform to This World (12:1-8)

Love One Another (12:9-13)

Bless Your Enemies (12:14-20)

Overcome Evil with Good (12:21)

Submit to Governing Authorities (13:1-7)

Love One Another (13:8-10)

Clothe Yourself with Christ – Don't Live Like the World (13:11-14)

As believers, we are already in Christ and clothed with His righteousness (Gal. 3:26-28). Now, we are to live out our identity in Him. We are to live as the very body of Christ.

1. LOVE AS CHRIST LOVED (13:8-10)

Love is a _____ debt.

Love is the _____ of the law
(cf. Matt. 22:36-40; John 13:34-35; Gal. 5:13-14).

Love is the _____ of the Spirit (cf. 8:1-4).

*[God] has summed up all our duty in one word, and that a short word and a sweet word—**love**, the beauty and harmony of the universe. Loving and being loved is all the pleasure, joy, and happiness of an intelligent being. God is love (1 Jn. 4:8) and love is His image upon the soul; where it is, the soul is well molded and the heart fit for every good work.*

—Matthew Henry

There is one debt which will always remain outstanding, because we can never pay it, and that is our duty to love. We can never stop loving somebody and say, "I have loved enough."

—John R. W. Stott

Another (13:8). Greek, *heteros*, "another of a different kind."

"Love your neighbor as yourself" assumes that people already love themselves. ...Human beings instinctively act to preserve their self-interest. —Thomas Schreiner

Law is needed where love is lacking. Where love is, the moral norms of the law are fulfilled.

2. LOOK TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST (13:11-12a)

It is time to _____!

It is time to _____!

3. LEAVE THE WORKS OF DARKNESS (13:12b-14)

Let us _____ the works of sin.

Let us stop _____ in sin.

- *Revelry* (Greek, *komos*, “drinking parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry and rioting”)
- *Drunkenness* (Greek, *methe*, “an intoxicant”)
- *Sexual immorality* (Greek, *koite*, “going from bed to bed”)
- *Debauchery* (Greek, *aselgeia*, “unbridled lust, shamelessness”)
- *Strife* (Greek, *eris*, “contention, quarreling, debating”)
- *Envy* (Greek, *zelos*, “jealous, the fierceness of indignation”)

Let us stop making _____ for sin.

4. LIVE AS CHRIST LIVED (13:12b-14)

Putting on Jesus Christ is a _____ act.

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Eschatology, an understanding of the times in which we live, should govern our conduct. We need to recognize both what God is doing and what He plans to do and then live accordingly.

—Douglas J. Moo

Drugs & alcohol are involved in...

- 50% of all suicides
 - 50% of all violent crimes
 - 50% of all traffic accidents
 - 80% of all domestic violence
 - 50% of all sexual assaults
 - 40% of all child abuse cases
- 11 Alcohol and Drug Addiction Facts, alpinerecoverylodge.com

*Most people seek to hide their evil deeds, but the man in whose heart is **aselgeia** is long past that. He does not care who sees him; he does not care how much of a public exhibition he makes of himself.* —William Barclay

Along with the more socially repugnant acts of drunkenness and debauchery we find, rather unexpectedly, quarreling and jealousy. These too are acts of darkness. Unfortunately, the church is considerably more tolerant toward such sins. Quarreling and jealousy are more acceptable than sexual immorality. This is not to make a case for immorality but to remind ourselves that Paul placed them together as deeds of darkness. —Robert H. Mounce

Provision. Greek, *pronoia*, “forethought.” Planning to fulfill our lusts or arranging things so that sin is more likely to occur.

Whatever increases the strength and authority of your body over your mind—that thing is sin to you. —Susanna Wesley