

Outline for May 9, 2010 Romans 13:8-14 – All of Life is Worship

Introduction: Last week we wrestled with Paul's imperative to owe no one anything except a debt of love. This obligation for the believer is defined by the gospel. The obligation to love our neighbors flows out of the grace of God and is not an attempt to pay God back for what He has done. This debt of love is best understood in terms of the saint's responsibility to go hard after God and to proclaim the gospel to every creature. The love of God to us and our love to Him is not a maudlin sentimentality but rather a free and decisive act that chooses to sacrifice itself for others especially the undeserving and unlovely.

I. The worship that is expressed in a life of obedience (12:1-2)

II. The worship that is exercised in a life of service (12:3-8)

III. The worship that is evidenced by genuine love (12:9-21)

A. Imperatives for the believer in relationship to the household of faith (12:9-13)

B. Imperatives for the believer in relationship to the world (12:14-13:14)

C. Imperatives for the believer in his or her obligation to love (13:8-15:13)

1. The obligation to love – "Owe no one anything..." (13:8)

a. What is this obligation?

b. What does Paul mean by this debt of "love"?

c. The big picture – Eleven imperatives that frame this principle for Paul

(1) Love displays the very character of Christ in holiness – "Let us walk properly..." (13:11-14)

(a) Knowing the time – "Besides this you know..."

- To walk properly is to conduct one's life in a manner that is decent, modest and becoming (Ephesians 5:1-2)
- "the time, the hour has come"

The call is to awake from sleep (Isaiah 60:1; Ephesians 5:14)

"sleep" – moral and spiritual drowsiness

Moral fatigue – a weariness and exhaustion that comes from labor and stress, burnout, lack of staying power, worn out

NOTE: Love displays the character of Christ in holiness by walking properly, invigorated by the gospel and vigorously pursuing its obligation

Spiritual laziness – coasting, drifting aimlessly, compromising, complacent, careless

NOTE: Love is not lazy – in displaying the character of Christ in holiness it is not slothful, it is dynamic and vital (I Corinthians 15:33-34; I Thessalonians 5:6f)

(b) Casting off the works of darkness – "So then let us cast off..."

- This is an imperative of repentance
- "works of darkness"

The debt of love cannot be repaid. It is ongoing for it is designed so that we might remain vigilant and vigorous in our pursuit of holiness.*

(2) Love dresses for war – "put on the armor of light...But put on the Lord Jesus Christ..."

(a) "put on" – dress in, clothe yourself in the armor of light

- Light is necessary in order to walk properly
- Weapons are necessary to war effectively

NOTE: Love conquers the lust of our hearts and enables us to walk in the holiness of God warring against sin (I Peter 4:1-2, 7-8)

(b) "put on the Lord Jesus Christ..." (Colossians 3:12-17)

(c) "and make to provision..." – to strike at, starve and strangle the flesh with the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit (I Peter 1:13-16, 22-23; Galatians 5:16)

NOTE: Love wars against the flesh for it flows from a pure heart changed by the grace of God This debt is constant and recognizes our obedience to the Lord to war against sin and demonstrate how much we love each other.*