

Outline for May 16, 2010 Romans 13:8-14 – Dressed to Kill

Introduction: The doctrine of love, for the Apostle Paul, is massive. His letters are weighty and solemn in their commands, appeals, and exhortations to love. One of the greatest chapters from his pen, I Corinthians 13, declares the character of love as a portrait of the Lord Jesus. Paul's application of Romans 1-11 in chapters 12-16 is built solidly on the foundation of what he terms genuine love. His word of choice that defines the character of God's love and the work of Christ in the New Testament is a word unique to the New Testament. Agape speaks of an act of giving, sacrifice and commitment on behalf of its object.

- 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)
 - (2) Love dresses for war – "and put on the armor of light..." (13:12b-14)
 - (a) "put on the armor of light..." – to put on is to dress or clothe oneself in or with (13:12b)
 - "armor" – weapons, the weapons of light
 - Light is necessary to walk properly
 - Weapons are necessary to war effectively (Ephesians 5:8-14, I John 1:7)
 - 1) The weapons of purity – a robust purity (II Corinthians 6:6-7)
NOTE: Love for our neighbor is founded in the Holy Spirit who enables purity of heart and mind, a pursuit of God, steadfastness in endurance and usefulness in displaying love, speaking the truth, and warring against sin in the power of God.
 - 2) The weapons of right thinking (II Corinthians 10:4-6)
NOTE: Love dresses for war by arming the believer with right thinking about who God is, the world and himself/herself. Loving your neighbor begins with great thoughts about God.
 - 3) The weapons of self-control and sober-mindedness – a rigorous self-control (I Peter 4:1-2, 7-8)
NOTE: Love dresses for war and fights on behalf of one's neighbor by living self-controlled, sober-minded lives in the power of the Holy Spirit exercising forgiveness.
 - (b) "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (13:14)
 - 1) A doctrinal statement that embraces the very word and work of Christ
 - Adorning your life with the grace(s) of the Lord Jesus
 - Embracing the cross (Romans 6:1-10)
 - 2) A decisive statement of command (Colossians 3:12-17)
NOTE: Love puts on the Lord Jesus and wars against sin through forgiveness, walking in the bond of perfection (maturity), letting the peace of Christ rule and letting the Word of God dwell in our hearts extravagantly with thanksgiving.
 - (c) "and make no provision for the flesh..." (13:14b)
 - 1) Do not make any provision
 - 2) "You shall be holy..." (I Peter 1:13-16)
 - Modesty – This a moral feeling of reverence and awe toward God with respect to others
 - Self-Control – Sobriety, bodily mastery over one's appetites – inner self-government reigning in all the desires and passions (I Timothy 2:9-10)
- NOTE: Ladies, are you dressed to kill? Ladies, are you dressed to take prisoners? Are you walking among men as candles among gunpowder or are you walking among men dressed in the armor of light?
- NOTE: To love your neighbor is to dress for war – spiritually and physically. If you love your neighbor you will dress to kill but if you love yourself more than your neighbor you will dress to take prisoners enslaving them to their lusts rather than encouraging them to liberty.