

Love in Action

Romans 13:8-14

Introduction

I The Fruit Of God's Mercy Is Love

- A. Let no **debt** remain outstanding - Rom 13:1-7
 - 1. Except the continuing debt of **love** - 1 Cor 13:4-8
 - 2. He who loves has **fulfilled** the Law - Gal 5:14-15
- B. All the commandments are summed up in this:
 - 1. Love **God** - Deut 6:5-6
 - 2. Love your **neighbor** as yourself - Lev 19:18
 - a. Love does no harm to its neighbor - Matt 7:12a
 - b. Love is the **fulfillment** of the Law - Matt 7:12b

II The Fruit Of God's Mercy Is Expectancy

- A. We need to **understand** the present time - 1 Pet 4:7-8
- B. We need to **wake up** from our slumber - Eph 5:14
 - 1. Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed
 - a. The **night** is nearly over
 - b. The **day** is almost here - Titus 2:11-13

III The Fruit Of God's Mercy Is Holiness

- A. We are to **put aside** the deeds of darkness - Eph 4:22-24
 - 1. Orgies - Gal 6:19-21
 - 2. Drunkenness - 1 Pet 4:3
 - 3. Sexual immorality - Heb 13:4
 - 4. Debauchery - 1 Peter 4:4
 - 5. Dissension - Matt 12:30
 - 6. Jealousy - Jam 3:14-16
- B. We are to **put on** the armor of light - Eph 6:12-13
 - 1. Behave decently as in the daytime - 1 Thess 5:4-8
- C. We are to **clothe** ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ - Gal 3:27; Rom 13:14
 - 1. Do not **think** about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature - Jam 1:14-15; Gal 5:16

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following questions:

1. Who is the person in your life, besides God, who has loved you unconditionally? What impact has that love had on your life?
2. How is love the fulfillment of every command of God? If this is true, where should your attention be focused in order to live a life pleasing to Him?
3. The early church lived with a belief in the imminent return of Christ. It had a powerful influence on their priorities and lifestyle. On a scale of 1-10, how strongly do you believe in the imminent return of Christ? How is your belief reflected in your priorities and lifestyle?
4. Romans 13:12-13 tells us that we are to put off darkness (evil) and put on light (righteousness). If God were to speak to you right now (which He will), what would He ask you to put off? What would He ask you to put on? Are you willing?
5. Take a moment to talk with God about what you've learned. If necessary, repent of any sin that is a part of your former way of life and ask Him for opportunities this week to fulfill His calling on your life to walk in love.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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