

Romans 13:8-14^{iv}

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

^{iv} About Romans 13:8-14

Paul concludes this section of moral exhortation (chaps. 12-13) with the principle that underlies his specific directions: love of neighbor. This is the obligation we always owe, summed up in the "royal law" (Leviticus 19:18; James 2:8). For Paul, love of neighbor is the direct overflow of our experience of God's love poured into our hearts. This gift is now to be poured into the lives of those around us. Since the gift we have been given by God cannot be directly repaid, we direct the repayment to others. As we become channels of grace, we discover that we are fulfilling God's law by loving others as God does.