

RTS Women's Study: The Book of Romans

#35: Romans 13:8-14: Loving One Another

Introduction: All you need is love?

I. Biblical Definition of Love (v.8-10)

A. Love is a Duty

- There are few words more negative in our current world than “duty”; People see “duty” as the opposite of love
- But Paul disagrees: we “owe” one another love

B. Love is An Action

- We have taken love and made into an emotion and a feeling (and that is partly true); e.g., “I don’t love you anymore” means I don’t *feel* the same.
- But the Bible sees love as something you do

C. Love Has a Standard

- People make their own definition of what counts as love; love is whatever they want it to be
- Biblically, though, love is any action that follows God’s law in relation to others
 - Notice Paul lists several of the ten commandments
 - But the overall sense is just treat others like you want to be treated
- Thus love is not opposed to God’s law, but “fulfills” it (v.8, 10)

II. Biblical Motivation for Love (v.11-14)

A. The End is Near

- Paul indicates that the dawning of salvation is “at hand”—a reference to the 2nd coming
- He uses analogy of the dawning of a new day; or waking from sleep
- But in what sense is the end “at hand”?

****Key question: Do you live like Christ could return at any moment?**

B. Therefore, Cast off the works of darkness

- Put off: sins that indulge the flesh and hurt others
- Put on: Christ and the armor of light

Discussion Groups

1. How do you think Paul's definition of love corrects the world's definition? Did it reveal any misunderstandings in your own definition of love?
2. Do you think modern Christians still prioritize the ten commandments like the apostle Paul did? Why not?
3. Do you think modern church needs to do a better job talking about the end times? How might that affect any particular congregation?