
THE BOOK OF ROMANS pt. 2: Fulfilling My Debt of Love

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, October 1, 2017*

Romans 13:8-14

The What: “Owe No One Anything...”

“... Except to Love Each Other”

The One Thing I Cannot Pay Back and Be Done with Is Love

Love is Not a Special Category of Behavior
Alongside Other Kinds of Behavior

“Let all that you do be done in love.” 1 Corinthians 16:14, ESV

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” 1 Corinthians 13:4–7, ESV

Emphasis on Behavior and Not Feelings

We Give Acts of Love Sacrificially, Because That Is How
We Received Love from God

“Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” Romans 13:10, ESV

“The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:31, ESV

The Why: You Know the Time

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

“For you know quite well that the day of the Lord’s return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night.” *1 Thessalonians 5:2, NLT*

How Would I Live Today, If I Knew Jesus Was Coming Tomorrow?

My Righteousness Will Never Exceed the Reality
of the Way I Love Others

“And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.” *1 Corinthians 13:2, ESV*

God’s Love Is to So Consume Me That I Become to
Look and Act Like Christ

How: Become the Christian You Were

Always Meant to Be

So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Jesus said, “If you Love me, Obey me” *John 14:15, 23*

1. I Get Rid of Un-Christlike Behavior

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.” *Psalms 139:23–24, NLT*

2. I Need to Be Prepared to Fight Spiritual Battles

“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.” *Ephesians 6:10–11, NLT*

3. I Live in A Way That Is “Proper” For A Child of God

4. I Put on The Lord Jesus Christ

5. I Don’t make it easy to sin

“... we take every thought captive and make it obey Christ.” *2 Corinthians 10:5, TEV*

