Reasons to Care January 16, 2022

*Romans 13:8-14 Series: Navigating Our Differences with Unity*

"Putting on Christ" ... is not one among many jobs a Christian has to do; and it is not a sort of special exercise for the top class. It is the whole of Christianity. C.S. Lewis

Intro: When social media turns people into monsters

1. Without love, you’re missing the point of the Bible
2. There’s one debt we should never tire of paying

v. 8 *Owe no one anything, except to love each other …*

Romans 13:7 *Pay to all what is owed to them …*

Psalm 37:21 *The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives …*

1. Love fulfills everything the Bible commands

v. 8 *the one who loves another has fulfilled the law*

v. 10 *love is the fulfilling of the law*

v. 9 *the commandments … are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

1 Corinthians 13:2 *if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing*

Leviticus 19:18 *You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.*

1. We don’t love instead of obeying; we obey by loving

John 14:15 *If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*

Galatians 6:2 *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

* What are some of the reasons that Christians give to justify speaking of others in rude and insulting ways?
* What does Paul mean when he says in 1 Corinthians 13:2 that without love “I am nothing”?
* What does it mean that “we don’t love instead of obeying; we obey by loving”?

1. Without love, you’ll sleep through Jesus’ return
2. Realize what time it is

v. 11 *you know the time*

v. 11 *For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.*

v. 12 *The night is far gone; the day is at hand.*

1 Thessalonians 5:2 *For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.*

Luke 21:34 *But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.*

1. Don’t hit the snooze button again

v. 11 *the hour has come for you to wake from sleep*

Mark 13:36-37 *lest he come suddenly and find you asleep …* *what* *I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.*

1 Thessalonians 5:5–6 *For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.*

* What does Paul mean when he says, “you know the time”?
* What does knowing the time matter, anyway?
* What was Jesus talking about when He said, “Stay awake”? I.e., What does “awake” living look like?

1. Without love, you’re not dressed for where you want to go
2. The old you has to be peeled off daily

v. 12 *let us cast off the works of darkness*

v. 13 *Let us walk … not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.*

Ephesians 4:22 *put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires*

Hebrews 12:1 *let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us*

1. The new you needs to be put on daily

v. 12 *put on the armor of light*

Ephesians 6:11 *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*

v. 13 *walk properly as in the daytime*

Job 29:14 *I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban.*

Colossians 3:9-10 *Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

v. 14 *put on the Lord Jesus Christ*

* How do you put off your old self?
* What does it mean to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ”?
* Where do you need prayer in growing in loving Christlikeness?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Romans 14:1-12

Notes