

1. When we love one another, the Law of God is fulfilled in us. This is not so that we can earn our salvation. Instead, God gives us the gift of faith, and the faith that we have works itself out in love for others.
2. Every one of the commandments in God's moral Law either teaches us how to love God or how to love our neighbor. Even all the other commandments in the Old Testament ultimately point us to how to love God and our neighbor.
3. How do we know how to love our neighbor? We know that when we love others, we do no wrong to them. We treat others as we would wish to be treated, which fulfills the Law.
4. Whereas, before we were Christians, we were slaves to our sinful desires, and we constantly did wrong to our neighbors, in Christ, we have been set free to fulfill the Law by serving one another through love.
5. Paul is both warning us and encouraging us that the time is short before we pass from this life into Christ's Kingdom. Our final salvation is closer now than when we first came to know Christ, so we should expect that we are growing in our spiritual maturity and our love for one another.
6. The nighttime of our darkness of selfishness is over for us when we come to trust in Jesus Christ, and the daytime of our selfless love for others is now here. The Spirit of Christ that lives in us gives us the power to cast off the dark works of our sinful heart and put on the way of love, the armor of light.
5. By putting on Christ through trust in Him, we can avoid these sinful activities of the past. There can be no provision for the flesh in the Christian life. Walk in the light of the love of Jesus Christ and fulfill the Law by loving God and loving our neighbor.

Application

1. Understand that even though love is a fulfilling of the Law, the only saving love we can have will be as a result of our salvation and not as the cause of our salvation.
2. As we seek to love our neighbor, do so with our eyes on Christ, as He has fulfilled the Law and given us an example of what true love looks like.

3. Make a conscious effort to put off the works of darkness that characterized our lives before we became believers and then put on the love of Christ, which God is working in our hearts through His Spirit.

Galatians 5:1-6

¹For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ²Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Matthew 22:37-40

³⁷ [Jesus] said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 7:12

¹² "[Jesus said,] So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Galatians 5:13-15

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

Galatians 5:22-26

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Philippians 2:1-11

¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly

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The Whole Law Summed Up In This Word: Owe No One Anything, Except To Love Each Other
Romans 13:8-14

exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.