

# **Romans – Let’s Do This!**

## **64 -“Living Like He’s Coming”**

### **Romans 13:8-14**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / April 24, 2016*

In **Romans 13:8-14**, Paul punches a hole in our temporal, time-bound, foolish thinking and he points us back to the person of Jesus Christ as the center of how and why we love others.

**V. 11-14** give us a dramatic wake-up call from the constant press and distraction of the right-here-right-now and impresses on us that time is running out and that that day is coming soon.

Living out the Christian life doesn’t work if it’s only about saying ‘no’ to sin, and if you lose sight of what’s at the very heart of the Gospel and Christianity and that’s a living, loving, personal relationship with Jesus Christ!

Let’s talk about all this in the context of time, anticipation, celebration, and the most loving relationship we know here on this earth- marriage.

Look at **Three Reminders** of what it looks like when you start living with a ‘Save the Date’ mentality and start waking up with a sense of anticipation and excitement for your wedding day and your Bridegroom – Jesus Christ!

#### **I. You Start Loving like He’s Coming!**

In **v. 8-10** Paul says to make loving other our focus rather than trying to keep the commandments. If you truly love other people you’ll end up obeying and fulfilling the law!

When you know for sure, without a doubt, that someone loves you already, it frees you to really love other people! It frees you to risk loving others because you don’t need their love in return and you no longer live in fear of their rejection because you’ve already been accepted!

“Paul guides us to say, ‘Now I will continue to make my focus Jesus Christ every day, and I will look to Him for everything my soul craves. And from my union with Christ, nurtured hour by hour, by focusing on Christ as my great Savior and infinite Treasure I will love people. Christ will be my focus. Love will be my fruit.’” Sermon ‘Love is Fulfilling the Law, Part 3’ Desiring God, June 18, 2012

In light of what Paul already said in **Romans 7**, then what about the law? Check out **Romans 7:1-6** to see his answer because it points us back to a relationship with Christ instead of a rigid, try-to-keep-the-law kind of religion.

Paul puts the risen, living Savior where the law was. You belong to Christ now, so the focus is now on Him - His deliverance, help, guidance, the joy of knowing Him and being loved by Him.

## II. You Start Living like He's Coming Soon!

That's what God Word tells us in this passage!

**Romans 13:11-12** "And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand..."

The day Paul is talking about is the day of Christ's second coming!

A lot of the New Testament is nothing more than a big 'Save the Date' card that should be mounted on the refrigerator of your life, reminding you that you've been spoken for, you've been chosen, He's preparing a place for you, and He's coming back to get His bride. If you're a Christian, that's you!

That should change how you live, how you respond to setbacks and disappointments and how you respond to other people who might reject you or not give you all the love you wish they would or think they should.

## III. You Start Looking and Living like He's Coming for You!

Look at **v. 12** again because he talks about what to wear when you know there's a wedding coming and your Bridegroom has spoken for you.

**Romans 13:12** "... Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light."

The Greek word that he used for 'cast off' is a strong word that means to reject, to thrust away, or to throw off.

In **v. 13** when he calls us to walk 'Properly' – the Greek words can be translated decently, gracefully, or elegantly.

This seems to stir up the image of a wedding day and the Bride getting herself ready for her Bridegroom.

In other words, think about your pursuit of holiness as working on your wedding dress. If you know anything about the journey of getting a wedding dress, then you know it's a really big deal.

That's where we are today as Christians, working on our dress. Casting off our old clothes, some of which feel so comfortable, familiar and so easy. But now that we've been spoken for, we have a Bridegroom and we can't keep wearing the same old clothes.

When you understand who He is and what He's done for you, it's your joy to work on your wedding dress! It's a process, but it's a process that's fueled by grace and motivated by love not fear of the law!

**Romans 13:13** “Let us walk properly (elegantly, gracefully), as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.”

By God’s grace you work on the dress, not in hopes that you can earn His favor and gain His love, but because He already loves you, gave His life for you and has given you the down payment or engagement ring of His Holy Spirit to help you get this done from the inside out!

**Ephesians 1:13-14** <sup>13</sup> In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

Read **Revelation 19:1-9**. It stays with this whole wedding theme and gives us this same sense of working on our wedding dress. It will be the wedding of all weddings!

**John 6:37** <sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

When you get married it’s a huge lifestyle change, because you commit yourself to be faithful to one person. That’s what happened when you became a Christian. You didn’t just add Jesus to your list of lovers. You’re married now. He loves you. He gave His life for you. And He’s coming back for you!