



# TO LIVE FULLY, WE MUST LOVE FULLY

NOVEMBER 13, 2022

## WORSHIP

Conquering Love,  
See the Light,  
Love So Great,  
Cornerstone,  
Solid Ground

## WELCOME

When was the last time you did something kind or generous, or both for a stranger who was in need? What motivated you to do so at that time?

## WORD

### ROMANS 13:8-14

<sup>8</sup> Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

<sup>11</sup> And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

The Bible instructs us to settle all obligations we have (**Romans 13:7, 8a**), including what we owe the government (taxes), human authorities (respect and honor), etc. The apostle Paul though gives an interesting twist to this command in **Romans 13:8b**. He tells us that we have a continuing debt to love one another. Loving others is something that we can never do enough of. There is no limit to the amount of love we should be giving other people.

The picture of loving fully that we see here is that of consistently and constantly loving others whether we feel like it or not. The Greek word for love used here, is “agapao” which is the verb form of “agape” (unconditional love). To love fully is to love continuously, in action form, not conceptually or just in words (**1 John 3:18**). We are to “love one another” (**v.8**); loving fully includes everybody—our enemies (**Romans 12:9-21**), government officials, our authorities (**Romans 13:1-7**), people who serve us, everybody! Now, why are we to love fully?

### I. TO FULFILL THE LAW

How does loving fully fulfill the law? Paul quotes four of the Ten Commandments (**Romans 13:9, Exodus 20:3-17**) that we fulfill, and all other similar commands, if we love others fully. What are these other commandments that are summed up as “love your neighbors as you love yourself”? We go back to the Ten Commandments --- the first four have to do with our vertical relationship, loving God.

The last six (commandments 5-10) are directed towards our relationship with others. All six commandments will be fulfilled if we love others fully!

Amazingly, we discover an even more powerful way of obeying this command because Jesus raises the bar of its importance. Jesus said that all of God’s commandments in Scriptures—not just the Ten Commandments are all fulfilled by loving God, and loving others (**Matthew 22:36-40**). This was in stark contrast to the 600+ “commandments” that the religious leaders at that time have added to the Ten Commandments, man-made rules that supposedly will enable you to fulfill the Law. Love fulfills the law because “love does no wrong to a neighbor” (**v.10**). Love becomes our motivation to obey God’s laws, including to love others fully.

How about “loving yourself”? Is this the same as “self-love” that we often hear about nowadays? Where did Jesus and Paul get the “as you love yourself” part of the command? This was not part of the Ten Commandments. This phrase comes from **Leviticus 19:18**, and its surrounding context. Here we see that the focus of the Bible for the command on love, is outward, towards others. It’s not to love ourselves first, then we love others. **Leviticus 19:9-17** identifies groups of “neighbors” that we are to love which includes the needy, foreigners, fellow countryman, laborers, people with disabilities, the whole spectrum of who our neighbors are. We instinctively love ourselves---we are focused on “me, me, me” such that I will



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## WORD

not hurt me, I will not slander me. We therefore can focus on loving our neighbors, as we love ourselves.

### II. AND WITH URGENCY

We love fully to fulfill the law and with urgency (**Romans 13:11-12**). To “awaken from sleep” is to shake off the spiritual lethargy and apathy that those who have followed Christ for some time often experience. This may be because we are too busy, or lazy, content on just attending Sunday worship services, we don’t make time for discipleship or read the Bible on a daily basis, etc. We need to have a sense of urgency in loving fully because “salvation is nearer to us” now than ever before. This “salvation” is the picture of glorification, when we will see Jesus when He comes again.

We need to ask ourselves as a church, are we too busy to care? Perhaps we don’t take the time to share the gospel to our co-workers, classmates, close friends, even if we see them every day. Your family members may have deep spiritual needs that you may be ignoring. Let’s take the time to listen, and help address their big questions or doubts about faith in God, etc.

People are looking for a place where they can feel “settled”, where they are deeply cared for and valued. Do we create this in our workplaces, especially for Christian marketplace leaders? One way we can do this is to have one-on-one times and listen. Lead to build trust.

Knowing this urgency, why aren’t we doing what we need to do to love others fully? What is stopping us from loving with urgency?

### III. LOVE FULLY LIKE JESUS

Could it be that it’s not only spiritual lethargy, but sin (“deeds of darkness”) that’s stopping us from loving others well, or following God to the best of our ability (**vv. 12-13**)? Paul in the final verse here uses the metaphor of clothing ourselves with Christ (**v.14**). The most important thing about loving others fully is not to do it in our own ability. We need to love like Jesus, and to clothe ourselves with Jesus is about sanctification. If we are sanctified for Christ, we will live for Christ, act like Him, love like Jesus. If we want to love fully, to fulfill the law and with urgency, we need to love like Jesus (**John 13:34-35**).

Jesus is not just our model for loving fully, He is our “means” for loving others the way He loved us—only through Christ dwelling in our hearts can we truly love fully (**Ephesians 3:14-19**). The mark of every Christian is love for others the way Jesus loves us and even the world will not be able to ignore that. As Napoleon Bonaparte observed, “Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and myself founded empires, but on what foundation did we rest the creation of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded an empire upon love, and at this hour millions of men would die for him”. Live fully by loving fully like Jesus!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

#### 1. Self-Check.

How can love motivate you to better obey God?

#### 2. Setting It Right.

What is stopping you from loving with urgency?

#### 3. Living It Out.

In what other ways can you show that you love like Jesus?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people you are in contact with, or who you come across as you go about your daily life. They are looking for a place where they are deeply cared for and valued. Pray that as you love your neighbor as you love yourself—loving others fully like Jesus, they will discover that safe place in Christ and in His family, the church. Share the gospel to them with urgency that they themselves may live fully and love fully in and through Jesus.

## WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God’s provision for families deeply affected by inflation.
- War in Ukraine to end; loss of lives prevented; escalating tension in East Asian countries to stop.

### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, deacons, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends.

## MEMORY VERSE

### ROMANS 13:8

Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.