

# **Get In The Game**

**6-6-21**

Romans 13:8 (ESV) **O/H**

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

**Here again is a verse that should never be preached without understanding C.1-8. Also, this verse is similar to the one as in Romans 12:9, “Let love be genuine.” However, this is not repetition. Romans 12:9 was directed primarily to believers relating to one another. Here in Romans 13:8 it is primarily related to unbelievers. The connection of the present paragraph with the foregoing section on governing authorities is indicated by the use of the word “owe”!**

Romans 13:7–8 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> Pay to all what is **owed** to them: taxes to whom taxes are **owed**, revenue to whom revenue is **owed**, respect to whom respect is **owed**, honor to whom honor is **owed**.

<sup>8</sup> **Owe** no one anything, except to love each other.

**There is a neat transition from we “owe” submission and honor to governing authorities to we “owe” them love. Owing governing authorities nothing but love ties into the world system and unbelievers in general. The debt of love is categorical with no exceptions. This is *Agapē* love which serves as our will or desire in search of an object. We are looking for people to love. Love is the visible side of faith and our responsibility to others.**

Romans 13:8 (ESV)

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

**God says, “The one who loves another has fulfilled the law.”**

Romans 13: 9–10 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

**Amazing world changing truth, “Love is the fulfilling of the law.” Jesus said the same thing.**

Matthew 22:36–40 (ESV)

<sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

<sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments (literal – hang) all the Law and the Prophets.”

**Everything the Bible says “hangs” on “Love God and Love others!” Love will guide us through all the world throws at us. We must apply love wisely as we walk through this evil world.**

**This does not mean we accept everything and confront nothing.** The Bible says we confront sin with God’s truth in love. For instance, God says if we don’t discipline our children, we don’t love them. In a sinful world that does not have the concept of the Love of God, we stand on our conviction, wisely present God’s truth in love, and demonstrate that love to them without condemnation. We know that Jesus will return soon and establish HIS truth.

Romans 13:11 (ESV) **O/H**

Besides 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.

**The teaching of Jesus' return is not an outmoded appendage to Christianity. Jesus' return prevents Christianity from being reduced to a philosophy or moral code.** The expectation of the return of Christ is the central truth of our faith. The present time is shown to be night and slumber when ignorance, confusion, and wickedness prevail. Look around us! However, we know Jesus' return and truth is nearer now than when we first believed. Therefore:

Romans 13:12–13 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup>The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup>Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

**Jesus is coming! Do something! Get in the Game! Cast off the darkness and put on the light and walk properly as in daytime. The night clothes are the works of darkness, the deeds that belong to the old life. The new clothes are the armor of light. This means Get in the Game!**

Romans 13:14 (ESV) **O/H**

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The apostle returns to his figure of putting on clothing, but now the garment is personalized. **This clothing is Jesus.** To carry out God's love, we must put on the Lord Jesus Christ. This amounts to appropriation—the deliberate, conscious acceptance of Jesus—so that all is under his control—motives, desires, and deeds. **The Christian is to live as though that final day has already arrived.** That means when we come under scrutiny from others, all they can see is Jesus. If our union with Christ is to be experientially successful, it must be accompanied by a constant reckoning of oneself as dead to sin and alive to God. We must “clothe” or “present” ourselves:  
Romans 6:13 (ESV)

Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

**The life of faith is a life of discipleship, intentionally following Jesus. This means claiming Christ's identity as our identity, HIS way in the world as our way. This means being occupied with the Spirit and not gratify the desires of the flesh.**

Galatians 5:16 (ESV) **O/H**

But I say, (be occupied in) the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

**Get In The Game, because:**

John 3:16 (ESV) **O/H**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.