

## Put Your Clothes On

Romans 13:8 – 14



**Getting Started** (Let the group decide which question to answer)

1. Of the “fashion fads” you’ve witnessed, which do you now consider to have been the most ridiculous? Now, a more pointed question, to which one did you fall prey (when you look at the pictures, which ones most embarrass you)?
2. What kind of relationship do you have with your neighbors? Why?

**In the Word** (The text for this week’s discussion is Romans 13:8 – 14)

Groups are not expected to discuss all questions! Sometimes the emphasis of the questions and discussion differ from the emphasis of the sermon.

1. When Paul speaks of the “law” in much of the book of Romans he is referring to the Old Testament (The Torah, Genesis – Deuteronomy, was spoken of by the Jews as “the Law”).
  - a. How does Paul describe the relationship between the “debt to love one another” and the commandments in “the law”?
  - b. Looking at Paul’s list of examples in Romans 13:9, in what way does the rule, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (see Leviticus 19:19; Proverbs 3:28; Matthew 22:34-40; and Luke 10:25-37), sum up these commandments?
  - c. What two terms are used by Paul to describe the objects of the Roman’s love? For you, what is the significance of these two terms?
2. As Paul writes to his Roman readers he directs them “put on” or “clothe” themselves with two different items.
  - a. Looking at the context, what do you see as the significance of putting on “the armor of light?” What is that? What does it protect against? What’s the contrast?
  - b. What did it mean to “clothe yourselves with Christ”? Weren’t they already supposed to be clothed with Christ? What do you see as the significance of making the contrast with the behaviors listed?

### **Application**

1. If you have a debt, you understand it must be repaid. This week, what opportunities can you think of where you may, at least in part, repay the outstanding debt to love one another?
2. It appears Paul is writing because some may not be living as though they were wearing the armor of light or being clothed in Christ. Where areas in your life do you see the need to be careful what you “wear” (what others see) because it doesn’t coordinate with these items?

### **Prayer Time:**

As Grand Central is in the process of recognizing additional shepherds/elders and deacons/servants, deciding how to proceed after the departure of the Ellis family (Youth Minister), and several other decision, it seems appropriate to pray for God’s guidance.