

Transformed!

How God Renews the Lives of His People

Get Personal

Part 18: Wake Up, People!

A Note from Pastor Keith...

Transformed people transform others. They are people of influence and impact. Their intensity, focus, giftedness and teamwork combine to change the people, the culture, and the world around them. But their great secret—the key to their transforming influence—is love. As Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians 13, without love, we're nothing.

BUT simply *knowing this* changes...**NOTHING! We have to...DO IT!!!**

Our Mission: We Share God's Love.

That's what we do. *Everything* comes down to that.

⁸Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Romans 13:8-10 (all references are NIV)

1. Context: We must fulfill our obligations to others.

⁷Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

Romans 13:7

2. Love is an on-going obligation. We're **never** done!

^{8a}Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another....

Romans 13:8a

3. Why is love so important?

⁹The commandments...are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore **love is the fulfillment of the law.**

Romans 13:9, 10

But what about loving God?

³⁶"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:36-40

4. You can't love God without loving people!

²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1 John 4:20-21

Get Personal!

It's Job #1 for each and every one of us—love God with all that we are AND love others as we love ourselves. What are you doing to be an agent of God's love in your home?

Here at Grace?

In your neighborhood?

At work or at school?

What are you doing that DOES NOT accomplish that purpose?

So... **WAKE UP, PEOPLE!**

¹¹And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ^{12a}The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.

Romans 13:11-12a

1. Understand the times!

^{11a}And do this, understanding the present time...

Romans 13:11a

2. The return of Christ has never been nearer.

^{11c}... because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

^{12a}The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.

Romans 13:11c, 12a

It is a Day of Salvation

“...the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1:8); “the day of the Lord” (1 Cor. 5:5); “the day of the Lord Jesus” (2 Cor. 1:14); “the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2); “the day of redemption” (Eph. 4:30); “the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1:6); “the day of Christ” (Phil. 1:10; 2:16); “the day of the Lord” (1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Thess. 2:2)...and many more.

It is a Day of Reward...or of Loss of Reward

¹³...his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light.

1 Corinthians 3:13 (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10)

3. Therefore...

^{11b}The hour has come for you to **wake up from your slumber**....

Romans 13:11b

Read John's warning to the Church at Sardis:

^{1b}“I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ²**Wake up!** Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. ³Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.”

Revelation 3:1b-3

How? (Your Spiritual Energy Drink...)

^{12b}So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Romans 13:12b-14

1. Stop living for pleasure and self-indulgence.

^{12b}So let us put aside the deeds of darkness.... ^{14b}... do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Romans 13:12b, 14b

2. Start living out your Spiritual Transformation!

^{12b}So let us...put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us behave decently, as in the daytime.... ¹⁴...clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ....

Romans 13:12b, 13a, 14a

Get Personal!

When Paul tells us to wake up, he is telling us to recognize what's really important, to set aside the distractions, and get focused. What is distracting you?

Let's put it another way: What are you committed to that you ARE NOT eager to present to Christ?

What will you do differently to wake up, to energize your spiritual effectiveness as an agent of God's love in your world?