

Romans 13:8-14 Reflection & Group Questions

Personal Reflection and Application:

Reread the passage above and answer the following questions:

1. From verse 8-10, what is the one debt we owe others? Why is it important? Who do you need to change your attitude towards? What can you do to treat them as you care for yourself.
 2. How should your awareness of this present time (verse 11-14) affect you?
 3. Paul uses the strange imagery of putting on the Lord Jesus Christ (as armor of light). How can wearing clothing, such as a uniform for policeman, or surgeons, or a suit or a dress, affect our attitudes and behaviors?
 4. What troubling situations are you susceptible to? What difference can consciously entering into the reality of Christ's for-you-not-against-you presence make?
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Group Discussion Guide *(Prayer Guide on back)*:

LEADERS: Select which items below to discuss. All of them are optional (unless otherwise marked).

WHOLE GROUP TIME (option to have kids present):

1. **What jobs** come to mind that require certain clothing to wear? What things are worn by construction workers, by doctors, by judges in courtrooms? What effect does that have for their task? **Christ permanently clothed himself in humanity to bear the guilt of our sin and shame.** *Let us praise him in song or in prayer.*
2. Singing Time: Songs from Sunday are Victory in Jesus, Glorious, King of My Heart, and Only a Holy God. (You may sing with or without an instrument, or to YouTube videos of these songs or other CBC songs.)
3. DON'T SKIP: *What are you thankful for this week?*
4. *Kids, what did you learn from being with the church family on Sunday morning?*

DIVIDED GROUP TIME (kids in childcare; men and women together or separate):

5. DON'T SKIP: *What challenges are you facing?*

Reread the sermon's scripture passage from this week.

6. What is the **one rule** that covers them all?
7. Compare verses **Romans 13:11-14** to **1 Thessalonians 5:1-9**. Call out truths these passages have in common.

8. What hope does verse 11 provide for struggling sinners?
9. *Share with us your answer to one of the Personal Reflection Questions.*
10. **What are some changes you can image in our area** if everyone in our church family was mindful of and trusted in the Lord's presence daily and so demonstrated loved to as many people they had opportunity to do so?
11. *Tell us about an opportunity you had to share Christ with someone this week, even if you didn't take that opportunity or even if didn't go so well.*
12. How has someone encouraged you in your spiritual maturity this week?

Prayer Guide:

Think back to what we have discussed. We mentioned things for which we are thankful. We mentioned some challenges we are facing. We shared things God wants to apply to our lives.

Let's pray "popcorn style" (not necessarily in order of seating) as often as you want.

*Let us take **one thing** that was mentioned. Let us **pray one-sentence prayers** of praise to God, or confession of need or sin, or thankfulness for what he has provided, or a request for God's help in something mentioned.*

Other Items:

- A. Pray for one another's courage to share Christ.
- B. Pray for the encouragement and care of our **missionaries** and the people they serve: **Megan** Baehr (Wycliff Bible Translator in Siberia; The **Planter** of "Way of Truth Church" (in Lincoln) and his family; Porter and Lexie **Hampton** and their children in Papua New Guinea; **Margaret** White in Eastern Sahara; The **Ashcraft's** transitioning from with New Tribes.
- C. Pray for wisdom, courage, and gentleness of our pastor/elders to lead well.
- D. Pray for the growth in Christlike maturity of our CBC family, especially our men.
- E. Pray for our building needs, to responsibly serve those God bring our way.