

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
Paul Gunn, Pastor

Sermon Title: Christian Values, Romans 13:8

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My two points today:

- 1.)The High Value of Love
- 2.)The High Value of Character
- 3.)

**First, THE HIGH VALUE OF LOVE**

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 13:8-9 <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.”*

**EXPLANATION:** Paul’s purpose in verse 8 is NOT to discuss finances as much as it is to use indebtedness to understand our debt to love one another. If you have a debt, it means you owe someone. Paul made it clear the debt to love one another would never be paid in full – he said it would be a continuing debt. And then Paul launches right into a lesson on values...the values of Christ that all people should emulate.

Paul quotes from the Ten Commandments, the ones that have to do with the relationships of people to other people: adultery, murder, stealing, coveting. He used the summary statement used elsewhere in the New Testament.

<sup>10</sup> *“Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”*

**ILLUSTRATION:** Yesterday was the funeral of Bro. Harold Allen, a well-known pastor in our area. I listened to a cassette tape of his and he pointed out something really interesting. There are hundreds of books about relationships and how to win

friends and influence people...all of those books could be summed up with “*Love your neighbor as yourself.*”

**APPLICATION:** Think if it, the summary statement of all we need to about God’s law when it comes to others. Love your neighbor as yourself. I’ve heard that other religions have a similar statement, but it’s more like this: Don’t do anything you wouldn’t want anyone else to do to you. In other words, you don’t have to do anything. When the scripture says Love your neighbor as yourself it means that you take the initiative. The Golden Rule: Jesus said Do unto others as you’d have them do unto you...again you hear the initiative. You do it. You love your neighbor as yourself.

**SCRIPTURE:** The Bible has a lot to say about loving your neighbor: Leviticus 19:18 “*Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.*”

**APPLICATION:** The initiative expected of the Christian is what sets Christian ways apart from the world’s ways. You see it’s possible to keep those commandments and not love those around you. Think about it: it’s possible for a person to not commit adultery, not murder, not steal, and not covet – and think they’ve kept the law. But if a person has hate in his or her heart, then that person has violated the spirit of the commandments and therefore violated the commandments themselves.

Again, the tone of Paul’s instruction is that Christians are to be both superb citizens and neighbors.

**SCRIPTURE:**

Mark 12:31 <sup>31</sup>*The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”*

Luke 6:27 <sup>27</sup>*“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,*

Matthew 22:36-40 “*Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?*” *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. This is the great and first commandment. And a*

*second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”*

*Luke 10:25-37 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”*

**EXPLANATION:** Desiring to justify himself...apparently he didn't love everyone, and he wanted to know who his neighbor was. You see, he was thinking he could be righteous by following the rules and loving only the right people, the people he was expected to love. But the trust of the Gospel is that your neighbor is everyone around you.

*John 15:12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

**EXPLANATION:** If we took all the scriptures about loving one another and typed them all out, it would cover about ten pages of paper. Why does the Bible have so much to say about that? Apparently, because as humans, we don't do it very well, unless we are reminded over and over. Jesus felt it was important, didn't he? If he said it was important, than it is important.

## **Second, THE HIGH VALUE OF CHARACTER**

### ***The Day Is Near***

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 13:11-14 <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.*

**EXPLANATION:** Paul's encouragement to the Romans was to set a standard by which the rest of the world would take note. "Wow, now there is a group of people different than any other group. They love each other! They are hard workers. They respect each other! They settle their differences peacefully! They help people who are not like them. They are pure in their lifestyles. And interestingly enough, they are not exclusive because they want other people to join them! They really do follow the teachings of this man named Jesus, who they call their Savior! They are completely different than any other group in society!"

**EXPLANATION:** All of Romans Chapter 13 is about values. I want to spend a few minutes here talking about values.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Do you know what your values are? They are whatever you spend time doing and whatever you spend your money on. Last night I spoke with a man who is spending time with his ailing father. Obviously, he values his father and the remaining time they have together. If you spend a few minutes with people and you will find out what their values are. If you say you value something and you never help fund it then think about it those aren't really values, there just wishful thinking of values.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Two interesting things happened this past week, it is interesting that they both happened this week and that they both fell right in line with values. Kori Bailey is our missionary and international families on our staff here. Kori was walking to her car outside the church, and a man drove up to the parking lot. She had never seen this man before, he gave her a box and he wanted to give away some things that people might need. Since it was a shoe box, she thought maybe there were some shoes in it. There was no sign of anything off center with this man, it was a completely lucid conversation there were no signs of dementia, there were no signs that anything was off.

This was what was in the box this man dropped off, empty film canisters, an empty gum canister, an empty Altoids box, dry rubber bands, pens that do not work, a molded jar of jam, a locked padlock without a combination, and more of the same.

There are probably a two thoughts in your mind right now. Some of you are thinking I am being rough on this man because I did not know the condition of his heart. Now others see this for what it is again if he had a mental condition then he is excused from all this but there was no signs of that.

Listen to what the Bible says, “Where your treasure is that’s where your heart is”

**ILLUSTRATION:** Let me tell you another story; let me tell you something great that happened. A young man and I had a conversation about tithing and I encouraged him to start. He did not know if he could do it or not and he didn’t know if he could make up for the past. I said just start right now and this past week on the same week actually the same day that the box story happened, I talked with that young man and he received a financial blessing that he was not expecting at all. Listen where your treasure is that’s where your heart is.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 6:38 *“Jesus said give and it will be given to you a measure pressed down shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap for with the measure you use it will be measured to you”*

**CONCLUSION:** Paul’s lecture here in Romans chapter 13 on values. Christian values loving one another generously really what a lesson for us what a lesson for all Christians of all times. Let us love one another let us come together as group of people let us set an example for the rest of society so not only they look at this group and say wow they’re so different but they say I want to be a part of that whatever it takes. And this started in Rome, the church coming together and the church has survived and to this day. And do you why it survived until this day? Because people have valued what Paul said right here and people have loved one another generously and they’ve come together as this collective group in society to set an example of love and generosity.

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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Sincerely, Paul Gunn  
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