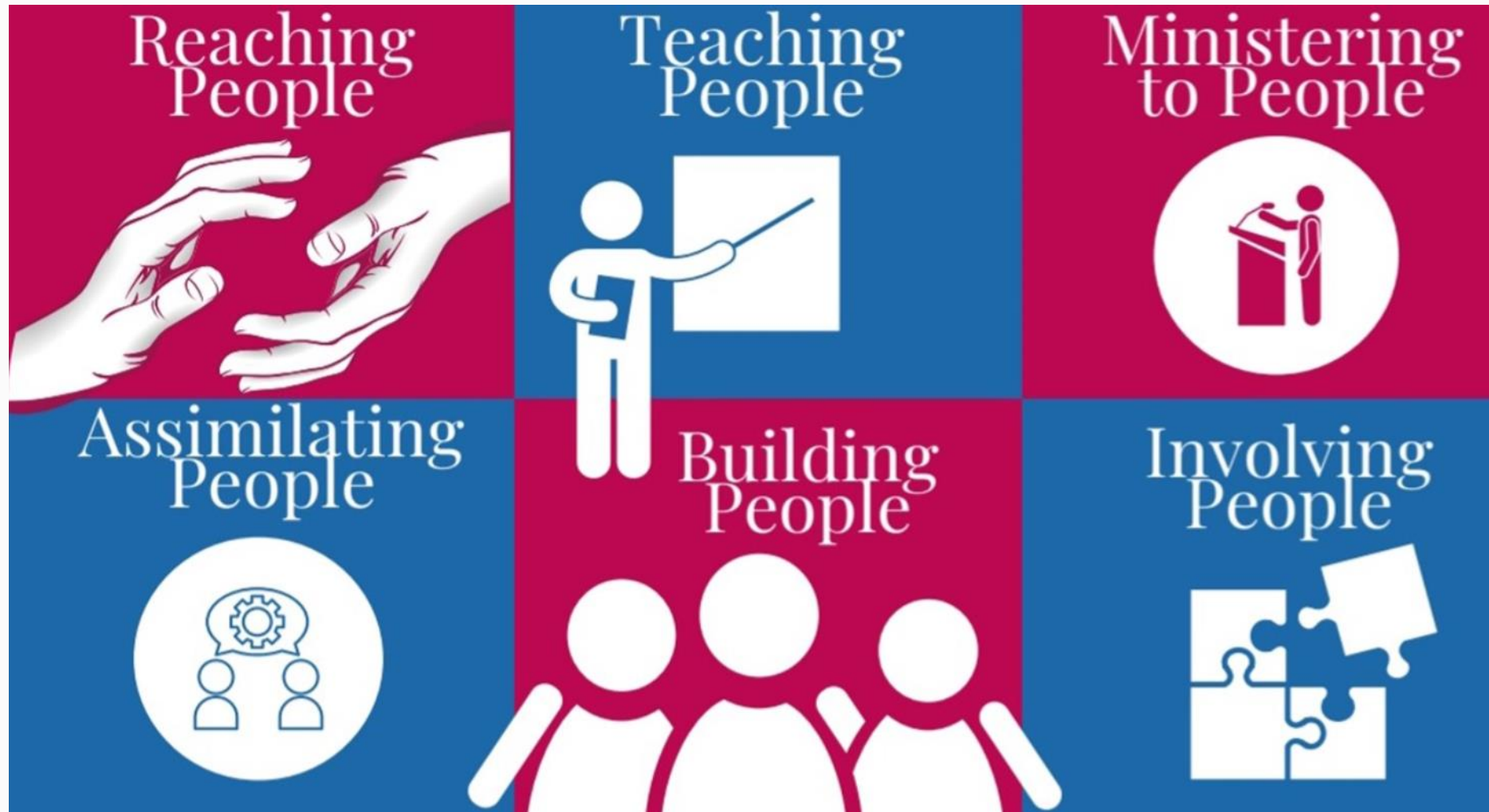




Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C
Sunday School

Lesson 13 August 30, 2026
LOVE FULFILLS THE LAW

SUNDAY SCHOOL CORE VALUES



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalms 133:1**

School/Class: But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

Superintendent/Teacher: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

School/Class: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalms 119:105

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

School/Class: He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. **Proverbs 22:9**

Superintendent/Teacher: Therefore he says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive and gave gifts to men.” **Ephesians 4:8**

School/Class: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

School/Class: For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. **Romans 12:4**

Superintendent/Teacher: By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

School/Class: For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Gal. 5:13**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

ALL:

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

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- Bible Basis: Romans 12:1-2, 13:8-10
- Bible Truth: Paul encourages believers to allow the love of Christ to transform their minds so that they can love others and themselves as Christ does.
- Memory Verse: “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law” (Romans 13:8)
- Lesson Aim: By the end of the lesson, we will: RECALL Paul’s exhortation to be transformed in order to discern the will of God so we can love others effectively; ACCEPT God’s will to love one another unconditionally; and COMMIT to a new beginning in which we actively carry God’s love into the world.
- Background Scriptures: Deuteronomy 13:15-20; Romans 12:1-2, 13:8-14 – Read and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.

Romans 12:1-2, 13:8-10 KJV

12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Sacrifice. This was any object offered to God. The act of sacrifice was central to Israel's religious life. Some sacrifices were animal offerings of lambs, goats, or cows. Sacrifices were prepared with attention to the finest detail. The most pure and healthy animals were offered as they represented something valuable to the worshiper. Other types of sacrifices were given, such as grain and wine, often given in thanksgiving and worship, while the sacrifices of animals were usually intended to atone for sin.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Fulfilling the Law. In the first century, many rabbis encouraged Jews to fulfill or obey the Law. Paul reminds us of how to fulfill God's Law: the best way was to be mindful of our interactions. Jesus answered that to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves are the greatest commandment. Our responsibility is to love one another unconditionally like Christ loves us. We need Christ in order to accomplish this, and by doing so, we will fulfill the Law.

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:

AIM: We will discover ways to live in a manner that transcends the selfish and corrupt ways of the world.

INTRODUCTION

Transformation and God's Perfect Will

Paul's letters not only explain the theoretical but are also very practical. [Romans 12](#) begins his shift, turning the theoretical into practical. He goes from the doctrinal to the pragmatic. These practical commands are based on the foundation Paul laid out in [Romans 1-11](#). He demonstrated God's mercies and described what Christ has done in the believer's life. Through Christ, the believer has been justified, redeemed, freed from the Law, freed from sin, and made righteous before God. These mercies are aspects of God's grace based not on our experience but on the facts of Jesus' work on the Cross.

INTRODUCTION

Transformation and God's Perfect Will

Because of this work, Paul says we should not only appreciate God's mercy, but apply this in our daily lives by offering ourselves to Him. He presents a metaphor taken directly from Jewish Temple worship of one who commits himself to a life of love. This life of love expresses itself in the spiritual gifts that God has given us, hospitality and loving our enemies, as well as our obedience to the laws of the land. Paul shows that this Gospel is beautiful in both theory and practice.

BIBLE LEARNING

AIM: We will discover that Jesus allows believers to
fulfill the law of love in our lives.

I. THE BELIEVER AND GOD

Romans 12:1-2

A Christian's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit ([1 Corinthians 6:19](#)). We must surrender our bodies, our whole selves, to God. In the Old Testament, animals were killed and presented to God as sacrifices. Here, our entire bodies must be presented as sacrifices, living bodies calling for a total commitment to God. This presentation is not only a responsibility, but also a privilege. The sacrifice is holy and pleasing because of Jesus' blood.

I. THE BELIEVER AND GOD

Romans 12:1-2

A negative command is given here, "do not conform," along with a positive one, "be ye transformed." Christians should not pattern themselves after the world but diligently allow their minds to be changed and renewed through the Word of God, prayer, and Christian fellowship. This transformation is a process that grows with consistent fellowship with the Holy Spirit. The transformation happens as we renew our minds, causing our bodies to totally commit to God based on our actions. After being transformed, we gain access to God's will, which is perfect because it is His.

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I. THE BELIEVER AND GOD

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Paul beseeches (Gk. *parakaleo*, **pah-rah-kah-LEH-oh**) or urges that the body be presented as a living sacrifice. Some choose to become organ donors to help others; however, this sacrifice is not just organs or certain body parts but all of the body.

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I. THE BELIEVER AND GOD

Romans 12:1-2

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This sacrifice is different from those made in the Old Testament that were killed; this sacrifice requires life. This indicates that it is a continual, daily, ongoing sacrifice. The entire body is presented to God, our Heavenly Father. This presentation is not only a responsibility but also a privilege; it is holy and pleasing because of Jesus' blood. We have given up sin and been set apart to God; when presented to Him in this manner, it is acceptable to Him.

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I. THE BELIEVER AND GOD

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Furthermore, this commitment is for all. Both church leaders and lay people must all present in the same manner for it to be acceptable (Gk. *euarestos*, **ew-AH-res-tos**) to God. We must do away with sin and make God the center of our lives.

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I. THE BELIEVER AND GOD

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Paul says this is our reasonable (*logikos*, **lo-ghi-KOS**) service (Gk. *latreia*, **lah-TRAY-ah**). The word for service is also used for the service of priests. Now instead of the Temple, the Christian's daily life becomes the arena of worship to God. Paul believes this to be reasonable and proportionate to the "mercies of God," the benefits outlined in previous chapters, as a result of Christ's sacrifice for us.

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I. THE BELIEVER AND GOD

Romans 12:1-2

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Two commands are given here. One is negative: be not conformed (Gk. *suschematizo*, **soo-skay-mah-TEED-zoh**) to this world (Gk. *aion*, **eye-OWN**). Here Paul refers not to the actual earth or globe, but the time period we live in. This age is characterized by the Fall and runs according to the pattern of sin and Satan. The word for "conform" means to be shaped by something external and transitory and does not refer to an inward transformation. We must not live our lives according to the world's ways, which are contrary to the coming age when God's rule will be established and clearly made visible.

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I. THE BELIEVER AND GOD

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The other command is positive: be transformed (Gk. *metamorphoo*, **me-tah-mor-FOH-oh**) by the renewing of the mind. The Greek word means to be changed into another form, the opposite of conforming. It is clear how the transformation will take place, i.e. "by the renewing of your mind." The word for "renewing" (Gk. *anakainos*, **ah-nah-KEYE-noh-sees**) has the sense of rebuilding and improving something. The Holy Spirit will guide this transformation. As we submit ourselves, the Holy Spirit transforms us by gradually renewing our minds. Daily, we submit ourselves to be transformed and commit ourselves to not conform-the two sides of committing to the Christian life.

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I. THE BELIEVER AND GOD

Romans 12:1-2

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The purpose of having a true commitment is so we can test and prove (Gk. *dokimazo*, **do-kee-MOD-zoh**) what God's will is. The word for "prove" means to judge as worthy or genuine and was often used for testing metals. Additionally, this true commitment also helps us develop the confidence of knowing and trying to realize God's expectations.

II. THE BELIEVER AND HIS FELLOW CITIZENS

Romans 13:8-10

As Christians, we must constantly pay back the debt of love that Christ gave to us, but we will always "owe" more love. We should pay every person in our lives love. Paul says this is what is expected of us from God. God has loved us so much that we owe not only Him but everyone around us the debt of love.

II. THE BELIEVER AND HIS FELLOW CITIZENS

Romans 13:8-10

Love has been the core of God's law since the beginning. Jesus says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" ([Matthew 22:36-38, NIV](#); [cf. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Leviticus 19:18](#)). When we love the Lord and all others, we fulfill the law. Paul gives us some examples of what not to do: adultery, murder, steal, or covet. However, we will love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. In sum, Paul repeats, love does not harm its neighbor. When we completely love God and others, the Law is fulfilled.

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II. THE BELIEVER AND HIS FELLOW CITIZENS

Indebted to Love Everyone

Romans 13:8-10

13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

As Paul outlines the behaviors of someone who grasps and obeys God's will, he addresses life in the church and obeying the government. Here, the transition from vv. 1-7 goes from what we should pay our rulers to what we should pay everyone. Paul contrasts his earlier words about monetary debts with a commandment to love. He says we are not to owe anyone anything, but we are indebted to love everyone. This is the gift that keeps on giving – we love now and continue to owe love, today and tomorrow and continually, like the living sacrifice mentioned in 12:1. We don't owe one another anything but love.

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II. THE BELIEVER AND HIS FELLOW CITIZENS

Indebted to Love Everyone

Romans 13:8-10

13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Through love, you fulfill (Gk. *pleroo*, **play-ROH-oh**) the Law. This word means to carry into effect or realization. It is no coincidence that Jesus also said that He came to fulfill the Law ([Matthew 5:17](#)). This is because Jesus is God incarnate and God is love ([1 John 4:8](#)). Thus, to love is to be aligned with the character and nature of the God of the universe.

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LIGHT ON THE WORD

Love Humanity

To display love to God, we must display love to people. We are sorely mistaken if we think we can love God without loving humanity. God is love, and His characteristics should show up in us, His creation. We cannot possibly love God and not love humanity; this is the fulfillment of the Law.

BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: We will accept that Christians can show their love for God in their attitude and actions toward others.

BIBLE APPLICATION

Today many in our communities are loaded down with debt and absence of God's love. From payday loans to student loans, the African American community is saddled with obligations to lenders. This greatly hinders our life and witness. [Proverbs 22:7](#) states that "the rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender" (NIV). While the writer of the time was speaking of actual physical slavery, today we are under financial and psychological slavery as we struggle to make ends meet. Before you take on debt, have a reliable plan for paying it off as soon as you can and read the fine print. You could be taking on more than you bargained for, hindering opportunities to practically love people as Paul exhorted the Romans. Debt hinders our ability to give to Kingdom work or obey God in proclaiming the Gospel, due to our working long hours or not having enough money at the end of the month. God wants to free us up to love, and being chained by debt is a sure way to hinder that mandate.

STUDENT RESPONSES

AIM: We will find that believers can create additional ways and opportunities to show the love of Christ to all of creation.

STUDENT RESPONSES

Examine yourself and ask the question, "How do I present my body as a living sacrifice? Do I sincerely make an effort to renew my mind? How? When?"

When you come in contact with another person, is your first response to love them? Start today!

Prayer

Gracious Holy Spirit,

Each and every day, grant us a renewal of our spirit, our minds, and our hearts.

Sustain us as we make sacrifices that are pleasing before God, and fill us with those things that satisfy our thirst, knowledge, and desire for Jesus.

In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen.

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Next Sunday
August 23, 2026

The Peaceful Kingdom
Isaiah 11:1-9