The Demand of the Hour

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 13:8-14.
- B. The true attitudes of Christians towards other Christians will be a desire to minister.
- C. To withhold the ministry of the gifts is to rob the inheritance of the saints.
- D. The Christian overcomes evil with good.
- II. The Christian is not to owe a man anything except love.
 - A. It is not wrong to have debt according to contract because this is mutual.
 - B. Love alone fulfills the law.
- III. How to create love in men's hearts.
 - A. The golden rule is positive—we must do to others what is good.
 - B. Love is extremely lacking in our society.
- IV. We need to wake up and become aware, not hurry up.
- V. The end of the age is near.
 - A. Paul spoke of this with regard to perspective.
 - B. More and more people are becoming aware of an air of expectation.
 - C. One of the most evident characteristics of the time we live is a growing regard for lawlessness and the mounting cruelty of people.
 - D. The solution is love.
- VI. How to meet the demand of love.
 - A. We are to put on the armor of life.
 - B. This means continually relying upon the power of Jesus from within.
 - C. The secret of love is to put on the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - D. We have Christ—the believer does not need to cry out in need of Him.
 - E. The only requirement is a desire to cut from flesh—do not make a provision for it.

Application questions:

1. What are some of the signs of spiritual decay in this generation?
2. What outstanding examples of love restoring people groups and relationships come to your mind?
3. What need can your love fill this week? Be specific.