

Before We Begin...check the original map...



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. 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. 12The 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. 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 ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.c

a9 Exodus 20:13-15, 17; Deut. 5:17-19, 21 b9 Lev. 19:18 c14 Or the flesh

Let's get in gear...

How do you get along with your next-door neighbors? Have you had positive or negatives experiences with neighbors in the past?

Exploration... Discovery... Revelation...



1. What word or phrase does the term "neighbor" bring to mind for you?

2. According to the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), what makes someone our neighbor?

3. Look up the following Old Testament passages containing the word "neighbor" and write in your own words what they command:

Leviticus 19:13-18

Deuteronomy 5:20-21

Proverbs 3:28

4. How does Paul's statement of our obligation to our neighbor compare with these Old Testament passages?

5. What does Paul mean by the phrase "Let no debt remain outstanding"? Does this mean that we should never incur any kind of debt (for instance, to purchase a house)?

6. In what sense is love a fulfillment of the law? (vv. 8-10; see Matthew 22:37-40; Galatians 5:13-14)

7. What does it mean to "understand the present time?" (v.11)

8. What reasons does Paul give as to why we should "put aside the deeds of darkness"? (vv. 11-14)

9. What "slumber" is Paul exhorting his readers to awaken from? (v. 11; see Matthew 24:36-39, 25:1-13)

8. What are the "night" and "day" being referred to in verse 12?

9. What is the "armor of light"? (v. 12) Why does a Christian need it? (see 2 Corinthians 6:7; Ephesians 6:13-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-8)

What do you think? Some "food" for thought...

- *How is our debt of love to one another like a car loan or a mortgage? How is it different?*
- *How is Paul's view of love different from contemporary ideas of love?*
- *What do you think it means to "clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ"? How would you go about doing this?*

As we complete this part of the Journey...

USING SIMPLE GEOMETRIC SHAPES LIKE THOSE SHOWN HERE, CREATE A "GEOTOON" THAT DESCRIBES THE CONDITION OF YOUR LIFE TODAY. HOW GOES IT?

IT WILL HELP THE PROCESS IF YOU CAN CREATE A CLEAR, BROAD, GENERAL DESCRIPTION RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON A VERY SPECIFIC EVENT, TIME OR PLACE.

IN CONFLICT? AT A CROSSROADS? TIED UP? AT LOOSE ENDS? HAPPY/SAD, DECISION TIME? NEEDING DIRECTION? BURIED? ALIVE AND FREE? FAMILY TIES? LOST? CONFUSED?

BE PREPARED TO SHOW YOUR "ARTWORK" AND DESCRIBE AT LEAST SOME PART OR ALL OF YOUR "GEOTOON" TO THE GROUP. (NOTE THAT I HAVE INCLUDED SOME GEOMETRIC SHAPES TO GET YOU STARTED.)

