

## **Romans 13:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another 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 any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## Sermon – September 6, 2020 – St James, Pentecost 14

Our Romans reading this morning says:

**“... the one who loves another has fulfilled the law...**

So in a nutshell, it comes down to ‘love’.

Romans also says:

**“...Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light...  
put on the Lord Jesus Christ**

A children’s talk I came across suggests we can literally ‘put on’ Christ as we do our clothes; Our Lord can be as near to us as the clothes we wear. The other day I bought a lovely light cardigan...made lovelier because it was 70% off.....it is so soft. I love the feel of it. Could we wear Christ with the same delight and comfort?

But how do we ‘lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light...’?

Well it helps when people come to mind who have done just that...people who have put on the armor of light..who have loved greatly and in so doing have shown us the way.

Terry Fox has been featured in the news these last days. We all know who Terry Fox was...he is one of Canada’s true national heroes. It is 40 years since he ran his Marathon of Hope and 40 years since he had to abandon his courageous effort.

On September 1, outside Thunder Bay, he was forced to stop briefly after he suffered an intense coughing fit and experienced pains in his chest. Unsure what to do, he resumed running as the crowds along the highway shouted out their encouragement.<sup>[50]</sup> A few miles later, short of breath and with continued chest pain, he asked his best friend to drive him to a hospital. He feared that he had run his last kilometre.<sup>[51]</sup> The next day, Fox held a tearful press conference during which he announced that his cancer had returned and spread to his lungs. He was forced to end his run after 143 days and 5,373 kilometres (3,339 mi).<sup>[52]</sup> Fox refused offers to complete the run in his stead, stating that he wanted to complete his marathon himself.

He ran a full marathon every day! For 143 days. He frequently suffered shin splints and an inflamed knee. He developed cysts on his stump and experienced dizzy spells.<sup>[45]</sup> He suffered a soreness in his ankle that would not go away. It was [tendonitis](#) treated with painkillers.<sup>[46]</sup>

Explaining why he wanted to raise money for research, Fox described his personal experience of cancer treatment in a letter to the Canadian Cancer Society:

”I soon realized...as I went through the 16 months of the physically and emotionally draining ordeal of chemotherapy, I was rudely awakened by the feelings that surrounded and coursed through the cancer clinic. There were faces with the brave smiles, and the ones who had given up smiling. There were feelings of hopeful denial, and the feelings of despair. My quest would not be a selfish one. I could not leave knowing these faces and feelings would still exist, even though I would be set free from mine. Somewhere the hurting must stop....and I was determined to take myself to the limit for this cause.<sup>[29]</sup>”

Fox made no promises that his efforts would lead to a cure for cancer, but he closed his letter to the Canadian Cancer society with this: "We need your help. The people in cancer clinics all over the world need people who believe in miracles. I am not a dreamer, and I am not saying that this will initiate any kind of definitive answer or cure to cancer. I believe in miracles. I have to."<sup>[29]</sup>

Clearly this was an act of love. Clearly Terry laid aside the works of darkness and I think Terry got his miracle, but it was a miracle he had initiated.

Early in his run Terry found a champion in Isadore Sharp, founder and CEO of Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts. Isadore had lost his 17-year old son Christopher to cancer the year before. When he first heard about Terry’s run in April 1980, he launched a fundraising call to 1,000 companies across Canada, urging them to pledge \$2 per mile, with the goal of \$10 million in corporate support. Terry was astounded by the news, saying, “It’s incredible! This is more than I ever possibly imagined. Our goal was \$1 million and it sure feels good to hear that. There’s no way I won’t make it now.”

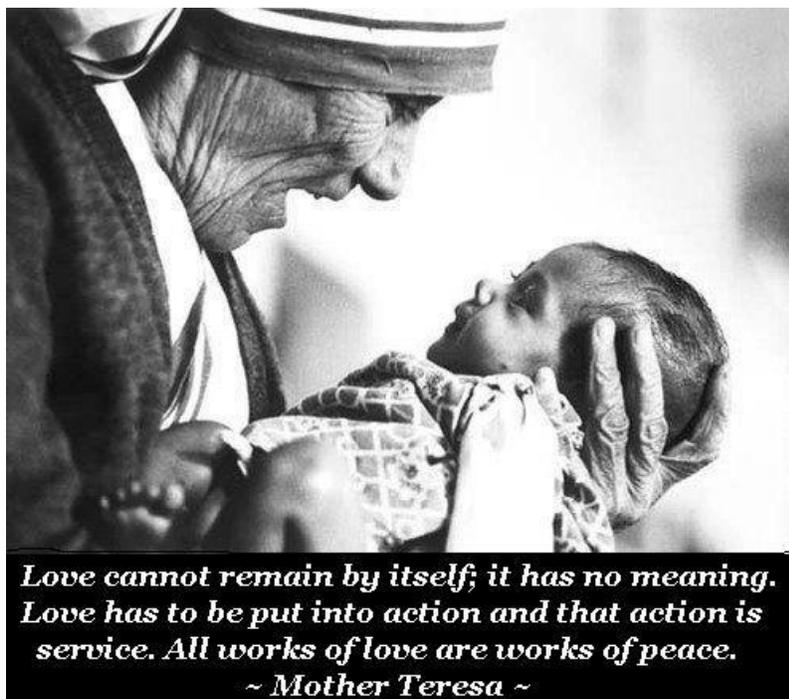
Soon after Terry had to stop his run in 1980, Isadore sent a telegram which Terry pinned to his hospital bed. In it he wrote that Terry’s marathon was just the beginning, and that a fundraising run would be held in his name every year to continue his fight against cancer. Isadore made the promise which Canadians have

kept: “You started it. We will not rest until your dream to find a cure for cancer is realized.” Over \$780 million have been raised since then.



We all remember Mother Teresa who died on September 5, 1997 and was canonized by Pope Francis in 2016. In the end she had founded 610 missions in 123 countries.<sup>[74]</sup> These included hospices and homes for people with [HIV/AIDS](#), leprosy and tuberculosis, soup kitchens, children's-and family-counselling programmes, orphanages and schools.

There are many quotes attributed to St Mother Teresa about active love. One is this. “Love cannot remain by itself – it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action, and that action is service.” And Mother Teresa’s own life suggested, there is no ‘enough’ to love.



Diana, Princess of Wales' short life ended on August 31, 1997. Her funeral was held on this day, September 6, 1997. Diana's great love extended beyond her devotion to her two boys. Her patronages initially centred on children and youth but she later became known for her involvement with AIDS patients and campaign for the removal of landmines.

Diana was the patron of HALO Trust, an organisation that removes debris—particularly landmines—left behind by war.<sup>[194][195]</sup> In January 1997, the year she died, pictures of Diana touring an Angolan minefield in a ballistic helmet and flak jacket were seen worldwide.<sup>[194][195]</sup>



HALO states that Diana's efforts resulted in raising international awareness about landmines and the sufferings caused by them.<sup>[194]</sup> In August 1997, just days before her death, she visited Bosnia and Herzegovina with representatives of the Landmine Survivors Network.<sup>[21][197][198][199]</sup>

Her work on the landmines issue has been described as influential in the signing of the Ottawa Treaty, which created an international ban on the use of anti-personnel landmines.<sup>[200]</sup>

A few months after Diana's death in 1997, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines won the Nobel Peace Prize.<sup>[202]</sup>

A couple of quotes from Diana:



I've always thought that  
people need to feel good  
about themselves and I see  
my role as offering support  
to them, to provide some  
light along the way.

Diana

  
[www.idlehearts.com](http://www.idlehearts.com)



Probably none of us is as tenacious as Terry Fox. None of us will influence the world as Diana, Princess of Wales and not one of us will be made a saint as Mother Teresa of Calcutta. But surely these people point us to the light, giving us courage and hope. Our Lord gave us the new commandment – to love one another. Diana said ‘Everyone has the potential to give something back.’ So let us wake every morning to ‘put on the armor of light, the Lord Jesus Christ’ and wear it with delight like a second skin. Amen.