

URGENT

CIRCA 1st century  
CIRCA ROME



R o m a n s

**Religious faith is a set of rules that restricts human freedom.**

**Religious faith wholly misrepresents the origins of man and the cosmos.**

**Religious faith leads to dangerous sexual repression.**

**Religious faith is ultimately grounded on wish-thinking.**

**Religious faith is a means whereby authorities exercise power over others.**

**James 1:27 Religion that God our Father  
accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look  
after orphans and widows in their distress  
and to keep oneself from being polluted by  
the world.**

**Rom. 13:8 Let no debt remain outstanding,  
except the continuing debt to love one  
another, for he who loves his fellowman has  
fulfilled the law.**

**Opportunity, not mere obligation**

**Rom. 13:8-10 ...For he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The 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.” Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.**



**Matt 22:36-40 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘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.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.**

**Love must have a foundation...it  
cannot hang in midair.**



**"How do we know what love looks like?"**

**"If love fulfills the law, then why do we need  
the law?"**

Joseph Fletcher

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*Situation  
Ethics*

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The New Morality

*Introduction by*  
James F. Childress

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- 1. Only one thing is intrinsically good...love.**
- 2. The ruling norm of Christian decision-making is love...nothing else.**
- 3. Love and justice are the same.**
- 4. Love wills the neighbors good, whether we like him or not.**
- 5. Only the end justifies the means...nothing else.**
- 6. Love's decisions are made in situations not prescriptively.**

**Rom. 13:11-12 And 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. 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.**

**Rom. 13:13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.**

**1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.**

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