

L. Love Fulfills the Law

A. The Debt of Love - vs 8

1. Owe no one anything

- a. context dealing with paying taxes, remains in the financial realm
- b. some think this phrase means you should do nothing with debt
- c. no where in the OT or the NT is debt strictly forbidden
 - i. no interest, especially for the poor - Ex 22:25; Lev 25:35-36; Ps 15:5
 - ii. Charging interest was equated w/ forgetting God - Ez 22:12
 - iii. God warned about those who would not lend close to the year of jubilee when all debts are cancelled - De 15:7-9
 - iv. God promised blessing to generously lending - De 15:10
 - said that the righteous are gracious and give - Ps 37:21,26
 - he who is gracious to the poor lends to the Lord - Pr 19:17
 - Jesus gives approval to lending in the Sermon on the Mount - Mt 5:42; Lk 6:35;
 - Jesus gives approval to borrowing for the purpose of investing - Mt 25:14-30 (27)
- d. when borrowing is necessary, repayment should be according to agreed upon measures
- e. scripture never justifies borrowing for purchasing unnecessary items that can't be afforded

2. except to love one another

- a. a constant indebtedness that is characterized by humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearance - Eph 4:2
- b. first applies to brothers and sisters in Christ - Jo 13:34-35
 - i. Serving Christians is equal to serving Christ - Mt 25:35-36,40
 - ii. demonstrates our love for Christ - He 6:10
- c. also applies to all unbelievers - Mt 5:44
 - i. the way you treat those who mistreat you - Ro 12:14,20
 - ii. doing Good to all men - Ga 6:10
- d. What Godly Love looks like? Believers teach about God's love by .. 1 Pe 3:15
 - i. Living faithfully - 2 Co 6:6-7
 - ii. Speaking the Truth in love- Eph 4:15
 - iii. Never turns freedom into an opportunity for the flesh - Ga 5:13
 - iv. Never rejoices in anything false or unrighteous - 1 Co13:6
 - v. doesn't cause a brother to stumble—Ro 14:21
 - vi. Covering a multitude of sin - 1 Pe 4:8
 - vii. Forgives sin - Eph 4:32
 - vii. It needs to be purposely fanned - 1 Pe 4:8

3. for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

a. The greatest test of love is its willingness to sacrifice - Jo 15:13

b. Jesus being the supreme example - Phil 2:6-8; 1 Jo 3:16

c. we are to be imitators of God - Eph 5:1-2

B. The Discharge of Love - vs 9-10a

1. illustration of love fulfilling the law

a. quoting 6 specific OT laws

i. 5 from the 10 Commandments in no specific order - Ex 20:13-17

- Adultery violates another's purity

- Murder or stealing robs another of life or property

- ***bearing false witness does damage to another's reputation***

- coveting doesn't always have an outward manifestation, but again violates the relationship between two people

ii. are all summed up in this saying - 1 from Le 19:18

- You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

- Jesus said second only to the supreme commandment "to love God" -Mt 22:37-39; De 6:5

b. and if there is any other commandment - 1 more that deals with relationships between people

2. Jesus' teaching on sin

a. All sin comes from the heart whether expressed outwardly or not - Mt 15:19

b. the Sermon on the Mount

i. Murder - Mt 5:21-22

ii. Adultery - Mt 5:27-28

3. Love does no harm to a neighbor;

a. neighbor - anyone with whom we have contact - Good Samaritan - Lk 10:25-37

b. Psychology of Self-Love is not taught here or elsewhere in the NT - Phil 2:3-4

C. The Design of Love - vs 10b

1. living by love is not mutually exclusive of living by the law

2. God's law cannot be truly obeyed apart from love

a. therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

b. the only one that truly obeyed the law

i. was the one who is love - 1 Jo 4:8

ii. He came to fulfill the law - Mt 5:17-19

3. Treating other the way you want to be treated is . . .

a. The Law and the Prophets - Mt 7:12

b. Fulfilling the Royal Law - Jas 2:8