

BOOK OF ROMANS
OUR OBLIGATION TO OTHERS
ROMANS 13:8-10

INTRODUCTION

Before we came to **GOD** we did not have the capacity to **TRULY LOVE** as we should.

TRUE LOVE is **NOT** a feeling. **TRUE LOVE** is a **SACRIFICIAL ACTION**— the **ACTION** of **SEEKING THE BEST FOR ANOTHER** even if it means **SACRIFICING** on our part to do it.

1 John 4:7—“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

We couldn't **TRULY LOVE GOD** until **HE DREW US TO HIMSELF WITH HIS LOVE!**

We couldn't **TRULY LOVE** our **FAMILIES**.

We couldn't **TRULY LOVE** our **FRIENDS**.

We couldn't **TRULY LOVE** our **NEIGHBORS**.

We couldn't **TRULY LOVE** the **WORLD**.

Our ability to **LOVE GOD** and **OTHERS** is as a result of the **HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD** that dwells in our hearts and fills our lives. **LOVE** is part of the **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT!**

Galatians 5:22—“But the fruit of the Spirit is love...”

Romans 5:5—“...the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”

In *Matthew 22:36*, **JESUS** was approached by a lawyer who asked him this question, “*Master, which is the great commandment in the law?*”

JESUS replied, “*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*”

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I. WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD! (*Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Exodus 20:3-11*)

Notice that the first 4 of these **TEN COMMANDMENTS** are **GODWARD!**

1. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

We are to **LOVE** the **LORD GOD SUPREME**LY and **EXCLUSIVELY!** **HE** is to have the **FIRST PLACE** in our life **IN EACH AND EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIFE!**

2. “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.”

We are to **LOVE** the **LORD GOD UNIQUELY** and **PROPERLY!**

Psalms 29:2—“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name.”

Acts 17:29—“Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device.”

John 4:24—“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

3. “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”

We are to **LOVE** the **LORD GOD** in **HONOR** and **HOLINESS!**

4. “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

LOVING the **LORD GOD** means taking time to **HONOR HIM** and **WORSHIP HIM!**

WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD!

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II. WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO LOVE OUR FAMILY!

A. Husbands Are To LOVE Their Wives.

Ephesians 5:25—“*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*”

B. Wives Are To LOVE Their Husbands.

Ephesians 5:22—“*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*”

Our SUBMISSION to the LORD is to be based upon our LOVE for HIM!

John 14:15—“*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*”

John 14:21—“*He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me. . .*”

John 14:23—“*. . . If a man love me, he will keep my words.*”

C. Children Are To LOVE Their Parents.

Ephesians 6:1—“*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother;*”

We’ve already seen how that our OBEDIENCE to the LORD is to be based upon our LOVE for HIM!

If Children LOVE their PARENTS they will OBEY them!

D. Parents Are To LOVE Their Children.

Ephesians 6:4—“*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*”

“*nurture*” = “*discipline; training*”

“*admonition*” = “*a putting in mind; the training by word, whether of encouragement, or, if necessary, by reproof*”

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1. PROPER CHASTISEMENT and DISCIPLINE are a NECESSARY PART OF LOVE!

Hebrews 12:5-6—“*And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*”

Psalms 19:18—“*Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.*”

Proverbs 29:15—“*The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.*”

2. PROPER PROVISION is also a PART OF LOVE!
1 Timothy 5:8—“*But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*”

OUR OBLIGATION TO LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD...OUR FAMILY...

III. WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO LOVE OUR BRETHREN, THE SAINTS!

John 15:12—“*This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*”

John 15:17—“*These things I command you, that ye love one another.*”

1 Thessalonians 4:9—“*But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.*”

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A. It Is For Our Benefit.

1 John 3:14—“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.”

(i.e. Part of our assurance in our hearts is based on our LOVE of the BRETHREN.)

B. It Is For GOD’S Benefit.

Matthew 5:16—“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

C. It Is For The Benefit All Men.

John 13:34-35—“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

WHEN WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER...

- 1. It Benefits The Ones We Show Love To.**
- 2. It Benefits Our Family.**
- 3. It Benefits The Saints.**
- 4. It Benefits The Lost World Who See It.**

OUR OBLIGATION TO LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD. . .OUR FAMILY. . .OUR BRETHREN, THE SAINTS. . .

IV. OUR OBLIGATION TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR!

(Romans 13:8-10; Luke 10:29-37— The Good Samaritan)

JESUS’ point by telling the parable of the **GOOD SAMARITAN** was this—The question should not be **“Who is my neighbor?”** but rather, **“Who can I be a neighbor to?”** or **“Who of those I come into contact with, needs me to be a neighbor to them in some way?”**

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THREE THINGS WE SEE:

A. LOVE For OTHERS Is A CONTINUAL DEBT OWED!

B. LOVE FULFILLS The LAW! (Exodus 20:12-17)
The first four of the TEN COMMANDS are toward GOD, the last six are toward MANKIND!

- 1. Honor Thy Father And Mother.**
- 2. Thou Shalt Not Kill.**
- 3. Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery.**
- 4. Thou Shalt Not Steal.**
- 5. Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness Against Thy Neighbor.**
- 6. Thou Shalt Not Covet Thy Neighbor’s Anything.**

C. We Are To Love Our Neighbor As Ourselves.
Vs 10— “Love worketh no ill to his neighbor.”

OUR OBLIGATION TO LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD. . .OUR FAMILY. . .OUR BRETHREN, THE SAINTS. . . OUR NEIGHBOR. . .

V. OUR OBLIGATION TO LOVE THE WORLD!

What about those whose paths may never cross our paths. Do we owe them anything?

Well let’s put ourselves in their shoes for a minute. If we were lost and dying, headed for eternity in a devil’s hell and there was someone who knew the way out of it, but never did anything to try to see if they could reach us with the way of escape? How wicked would we think that is? Would we say that person showed **LOVE** toward us?

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*1 John 2:2—“And He is the propitiation for our sins: **and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.**”*

*Mark 16:15—“Go ye into **all the world**, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

*2 Corinthians 5:18-20—“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling the world unto himself**, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and **hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.** Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.”*

If **JESUS LOVED THE WORLD** enough to go the **CROSS** to **SUFFER** and **DIE FOR THEM**. (And **HE** did!) Do you think **HE** expects us to **LOVE** them? I’m not talking about pitying them. Do you think that **HE** expects us to **SACRIFICE** to see that they get a chance to hear the **GOSPEL**?

CONCLUSION

So, let’s ask ourselves this question...How is our **LOVE**?

OUR LOVE FOR THE LORD GOD,

OUR LOVE FOR OUR FAMILY,

OUR LOVE FOR OUR BRETHREN, THE SAINTS,

OUR LOVE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS,

OUR LOVE FOR THE WORLD.

Is it more than just a warm feeling? Does it **motivate us** to do something?

If not, it really isn’t **LOVE!** Because **TRUE LOVE (GOD’S LOVE!)** moves us to **ACTION!**