

“LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR”
Romans 13:8-10 -- 11/08/2015
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP
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Romans 13:8-10

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

In this text ... Paul is bridging our Gospel Obligation of our Love for the Lost, from our Relationship with Government and governing officials in “owing honor, taxes, respect, etc....”

... now, the core of the Principle of God’s Love, the Love of God in us and through us to those around us ... really ... **Owe no one anything except to love one another** ...

The basis of our dealing with people around us, including Government officials, must spring from a heart of Love, that is a heart that is being ruled by the Love of God, transforming Love.

Instead of being focused on other things & our rights, etc., our focus should be on the welfare of the people around us, yes, including governing officials, etc. – even if they are of a different political party, etc.

Love, God’s Love, does not mean that we except their beliefs, their ideology, their worldview, their politics, etc... but it does mean that we are to demonstrate genuine, Love of Christ toward those around us, regardless of who they are.

Paul uses some of the 10 Commandments ... those that deal with Human-to-Human relationships

→ Verse 8 deals with a Positive flow of love

→ Verse 9 deals with the restrictive view of human nature – holding back sinful actions / desires

→ Verse 10 shows that Love does NO Harm (negative to positive) ...

God’s Love (agapé love) flowing through us, fulfills God’s Law (human-to-human aspects)

If you are truly Born Again, and God’s Love flows through you, it does no harm to others

similar to the Hippocratic Oath of Doctors – NOT DOING EVIL toward your neighbor ... is love

1. **“You shall not commit adultery”** → Your marriage is sacred, your wife / husband is off limits to me regarding anything that would be sinful, etc. I respect you, your marriage, your wife/husband, etc. and will treat you accordingly. **Honor Marriage Anniversaries**
2. **“You shall not murder”** → I respect your dignity of life and value your life, not to kill you because I am angry or for whatever reason (murder) ... your life is sacred. **Birthdays**
3. **“You shall not steal”** → I respect your stuff, that which you own (money, possessions, property, creative property, etc.) – property rights – yours is yours, mine is mine ... mutual respect. **Encourage Folks to Give for the Gospel and for Compassion**
4. **“You shall not bear false witness”** → Integrity, Truthfulness, Trustworthy, Faithful, standing up for Truth, not lying about my “neighbor” to others – not gossiping - I will be truthful to you and about you, **but also be DISCREET when needed**
Proverbs 11:13 - Whoever gossips gives away secrets, but whoever is trustworthy (faithful) in spirit can keep a secret.
5. **“You shall not covet”** → Coveting is an inward, unseen attitude, obsession, set of thoughts ... an overwhelming desire to have what others have ...
The opposite would be to Rejoice when others win or are successful – **Celebrate them**
Out-do one another in showing honor to those around you (Romans 12:10)

Then Paul finishes off this section with

and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

If we would love others with the kind of care, time, concern that we care for ourselves... that is what God is saying ... how we should love others... just like we love ourselves (personally).

FYI – A little bit of Trivia ...

In all the repeated parts of the 10 Commandments by the New Testament writers, when referencing New Testament Believers in Christ (i.e.: Romans thru Jude) - when referencing our Relationship to the 10 Commandments (i.e. how we are to Love our Neighbor, etc... in **fulfillment of the Law**) The 4th Commandment – Keeping the Sabbath – seems to be **left out**. **Why?**

Hebrews 3 & 4 takes up the focus of our fulfillment of the “Law” of the Sabbath, **in Christ**. Jesus Christ fulfilled the Sabbath **for us**, and if we are in Christ, the Sabbath is **fulfilled in us**, because of Christ. Our Faith, is **Resting** in Christ is us keeping the Sabbath, **yes**. Please Read Hebrews 3 & 4 see, especially, Hebrews 4:3-11 | Hebrews **4:10** → **For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His** (i.e.: we have entered this REST, **in Christ**)

We’ve looked at **“Thou Shalt NOT ...”** the **negative side** of NOT doing something to someone, therefore that shows love ... well. We can fully disengage from people, isolate ourselves and NOT do any harm to others ... and THAT IS **NOT** what Paul was getting at ...

Jesus used a **Positive Example** regarding **God’s Love flowing through us ...** (the **Positive Side**)

John 13:34-35 [Jesus said...]

³⁴ **“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

“Beloved, if God so loved us, WE ALSO OUGHT TO LOVE one another.”

“We Love Him because He First Loved us ...” 1 John 4:11,19

Is MY TANK FULL of His LOVE? (TANKFUL → THANKFUL)

Jesus uses Himself as the Example of what Love is and How we are to love others around us

1. He is Focused on what is the **BEST for Others** (not to placate them, not to Please them, nor to make them feel **happy**) ... what is **GOD’s BEST** for others? (not what people think is best for themselves, in many cases ...)
2. **God’s Love is focused on the Value** of the Person being loved ... the value, the dignity, the human worth ... the value is based upon the Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross ...
3. God’s Love finds creative ways to express itself to Breakthrough to Rescue lost sinners (does not give up hope ... 1 Corinthians 13)
4. God’s Love Rejoices in the Truth, but never compromises God’s Truth, never ... (1 Corinthians 13)

If we are to owe no person nothing, except God’s Love ... what does that look like?

How will that affect our time usage? How will that affect our choices for _____?

What will this do when we are doing _____? Our Marriages? Friendships? Work?

Is **God’s Love ruling** in our lives? When we are out grocery shopping, are we looking to show God’s Love and Truth to those around us?

This is supernatural, but we have to also **MUST** be **INTENTIONAL & Prayerful & Accountable**

Remember – we Love people for the Gospel’s Sake, for Christ’s Name Sake.