

Romans 13:8-10
A Lovely Kind of Debt

Obligated ...

I. Lawful

A. The Essence

1. Love God
2. Love Your Neighbor

B. Fulfilled

1. By Christ: perfection
2. By Us: perpetuity

II. Loving

A. Understood

B. Embraced

C. Applied

... to invest.

Children, listen ...

1. Do you know what the summary of God's Law is?
2. So what is it we are commanded to do in the summary of the Law?
3. Who should you think of as your neighbor? (Hint – it is not just the people next-door).
4. What command does Jesus give us in John 15:12?
5. What does Jesus say we will do if we love Him?

Unmistaken Love

Mankind's fall into sin has distorted our perception of love. We have a warped view not only of how to give love, but also how to receive it. But God's Word defines what true love really is and gives guidelines for it in what might a surprising form to some, the Law. The Bible makes it clear that the summary of the Law is love toward God and to our fellow man. Paul makes the connection between the perpetual obligation we have to our fellow man to love them and what is commonly called the second tablet of the Law. Fulfilling love toward neighbor requires an understanding and application of both the negative and positive commands of Scripture including the Decalogue. If we want to see love perfected we look to Jesus, if we want to put into practice Christ-like love we need to study the Law and seek God's grace to apply it with a true spirit of charity and generosity.

Lord, help me by your grace: shape my understanding according to your Word – give me the mind of Christ, please bring my will into conformity with your will and stir my affections with a new passion to pursue you and my neighbors with love - with all the powers of my soul indwelt with your Holy Spirit; That my words, works and gestures would be an expression of an ever-deepening love for you, the God of my salvation, and for all that you place in my life that they may see in me the love of Jesus Christ my Lord. (WLC 99).