

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ And He said to him,

"YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND."

³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment.

³⁹ The second is like it,

"YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

(Matthew 22:37-40)

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

³⁵ By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

(John 13:34-35)

Love and the Law

Romans 13:8-10

⁸ Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves the other has fulfilled *the* law.

⁹ For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the* law.

(Romans 13:8-10)

Loving the Other

1. The Debt of Love

- love for one another is the central and perpetual obligation of Christians

➤ *Romans 13:8 and the issue of financial debt:*

- Paul is not addressing financial matters but is stressing the centrality of love
- at most, he implies that we should pay our debts, not that we should never incur debt

Loving the Other

1. The Debt of Love

- love for one another is the central and perpetual obligation of Christians
- we “owe” this love to others because God has loved us in Christ when we were undeserving

¹⁶ We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

(1 John 3:16)

¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹⁹ We love, because He first loved us.

(1 John 4:10-11, 19)

Loving the Other

2. The Nature of Love

- our innate sense of self-love is to be the measure of our love for others (cf. Matthew 7:12)
- Christ's sacrificial, sanctifying love is the measure of our love for others (John 13:34; Eph. 5:2)