

Living Free through Difficult Love Romans 13:8-10

The Value of Love: It fulfills the law of God. Romans 13:8

"Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law"

Romans 5:5

The People to love: Our "neighbor" regardless of the circumstances. Romans 13:9-10

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

Four violations of love and how to overcome them:

- **Adultery:** Physical and emotional
Matthew 5:27-28, Job 31:1, I Corinthians 6:16-20

- **Murder:** Physical and emotional
Matthew 5:21-22, John 8:44, Ephesians 4:26-27

- **Stealing:** Two ways we can steal:
 - How employers steal - James 5:4

 - How employees steal - Titus 2:9-10

 - How Christians steal from God - Acts 5:2-3, Malachi 3:8-10

- **Coveting:**
Exodus 20:17; James 4:1, 2; Romans 12:15-17; Philippians 4:11-13

How to love if you are the victim of these four violations: II Corinthians 2:6-8

Digging Deeper

It should be no surprise to any follower of Jesus that love is a major theme throughout the Bible.

LifeGroup Discussion:

Read, reflect and write down what the following passages teach you on love. How should you respond?

- John 13:34-35
- I John 3:23
- I John 4:7
- I John 4:21
- I Peter 1:22
- Romans 5:5
- I Thessalonians 4:9
- I Peter 4:7-8

Paul lists 4 of the 10 Commandments in Romans 13:8-11. How do these 4 sins below destroy love?

Read the following verses and discuss what impact they have on the following situations:

- 1) If you are tempted or have committed that sin
- 2) If you are the victim of that sin by another person.

- **Adultery:** Matthew 5:27-28, Job 31:1, I Corinthians 6:16-20
- **Murder:** Matthew 5:21-22, John 8:44, Ephesians 4:26-27
- **Stealing:** How do employers steal in James 5:4? How do employees in Titus 2:9-10? How do we steal from God in Acts 5:2-3 and Malachi 3:8-10?
- **Coveting:** What damage does coveting cause in relationship in James 4:1-2? How should you react to the success of another person in Romans 12:15-17? What does Philippians 4:11-13 teach you about contentment?

Next Steps:

1. Host your next door neighbors over for a summer BBQ, ice cream sundaes or a game night to build a deeper friendship and find out ways you can serve them in the future.
2. Prepare and deliver a meal to a family staying at the Ronald McDonald House in the city of Orange. This house is a temporary home for families who have a child undergoing long term care at Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC). To contact the Ronald McDonald House for more info on preparing a dinner, go to ronaldhouseoc.org
3. Become a Summer Volunteer with our Children's Ministry at Calvary. Typically the summer months are the most difficult months to find nursery, preschool and elementary volunteers for our summer Children's Programs. For more info or to apply, visit calvarylife.org/town
4. Make a phone call to an older relative to whom you don't talk to very often or who lives alone.
5. Prepare and serve cold drinks and snacks to service workers at your home (yard maintenance, pool cleaners, postman, etc.).
6. Write an email (or letter!) to someone who has loved and cared for you well and thank them for their impact.
7. Get involved in Calvary's "Serve Weekend" on Saturday, August 9 from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm as we help paint and restore a downtown Santa Ana church. More details and signups available on Sundays in July.
8. Meet a new person or family at Calvary next Sunday and invite them out to lunch (and pay for it!).
9. Sign up to serve the homeless at Mary's Kitchen in Orange with our Calvary Church Mary's Kitchen Team. To discover upcoming Serve Days and details, contact Sheri at sgoodrich@calvarylife.org
10. Invite a family member, friend or co-worker to come to church with you this summer and be part of one of our Sunday summer worship services (Celebration at 8:45 am, Elevation at 10:45 am, and Doxology at 5:45 pm).
11. Volunteer to water, grab the mail and feed the pets of a neighbor, friend or family member who is gone on vacation this summer.
12. Invite a non-believing friend or family member to Harvest Crusade at Anaheim Stadium this August 13-15, 2014. For more details, visit harvest.org/crusades
13. Pray for College, High School and Junior High School Students on a daily basis while they attend a Calvary Church summer camps and trips. To receive a Student Ministries summer calendar, contact Devenie at 714.550.2331 or visit calvarylife.org/students
14. Visit Seniors with memory loss with our monthly Retirement Home Ministry in Tustin. Contact Bob at rdbrowning@msn.com for more info and days/times.