

Loving Your Neighbor Romans 13:8-10

Loving your neighbor builds up a good kind of debt. Romans 13:8a

"Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another" Romans 13:8a

- **Negative Command on Debt: "Owe nothing to anyone"**
 - Does the Bible forbid borrowing?
 - No, but it warns about the dangers of debt (Proverbs 22:7)
 - Two Simple Rules on borrowing (adapted from Ray Pritchard)
 - Don't borrow more money than you can honestly repay
 - Pay what you owe when you owe it
- **Positive Exception for Debt: "Except to love one another"**
 - Who are the "one anothers" and neighbors we are called to love?
 - How are we supposed to love our neighbors?
 - Loving one another is a continuous call (the debt is never paid)
**See Digging Deeper (other side) for Ideas on How to Love One Another*

Loving your neighbor produces obedience to Jesus Christ. (Romans 13:8b-10)

"for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. 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."

- **The Law before we place our faith in Christ is a tool of condemnation, showing and convicting us of our sin** (Romans 3:19-20)
- **The Law after we place our faith in Jesus is a tool of sanctification as it guides us towards grace centered obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ** (Romans 7:4)

Loving your neighbor is motivated by knowing you are personally and wonderfully loved by God.

- **The context for Romans 13:8-10 includes the amazing truths:**
 - God demonstrated His love for you (Romans 5:8)
 - God promises that there is nothing that can separate you from His love (Romans 8:35-39)

Digging Deeper

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 who 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 consistently well and thank them for their impact.
7. Get involved in Calvary's "Serve Weekend" on Saturday, August 9, 2014 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.

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 four of the 10 Commandments in Romans 13:8-11. How do these four 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
- **Steal:** 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?
- **Covet:** 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?

