



PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS – Owe No One Anything, Except Love Community Group Study Guide Romans 13: – Week of November 20th, 2022

1. Owe No One Anything, Except Love

Scripture instructs us as Christians to be wise and obedient with the resources God has given us. Paul reminds us our obligation to love our neighbors. Through Christ, we have had love generously gifted to us in an amount that we can never repay. In turn, we have been commanded to respond by loving God and our neighbor. This is why Paul reminds us of the obligation we have to love our neighbors. This is not an easy task to accomplish. Living in a sinful world requires us to love sinful people. However, this is how we imitate Christ, in loving those who are unlovely. If we are fully loving God and our neighbor, then we are acting in a fashion that does no wrong. This state of loving relationship with God and neighbor fulfills the law, and is how we are prescribed to live our life.

2. The 10 Commandments Are Still God's Law

With our objective to fulfill the law by loving God and loving neighbor, the temptation is to lower the authority of the law. Paul addressed this earlier, by reminding us that while we live under grace, it is still wrong to be disobedient to the moral law of God. Consider it this way: that there is a positive and negative calling to our obedience as Christians. The law is a calling against or away from something (the negative), whereas in Christ we are now called toward something (the positive). Love is what drives us forward, and the means by which we reach the goal. The 10 Commandments (Moral Law) are the guardrails that guide our journey, and give us objective test by which we might approve what is good.

3. Put on the Armor of Light

Paul reminds us of the warfare that is ongoing around us. We cannot be passive. We must put on the armor of God, and make no provision for the temptations of the flesh.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand and act on the love that has been given to us. God has loved us, and likewise instructed us to love others. We should have a desire to generously love others, just as Christ has loved us.

Heart

Loving our neighbors can be challenging. Sinful humans are unlovely. However, we should look to the cross of Christ, and see His love for us while we also were unlovely.

Hands

We are to take every opportunity to love our neighbor as ourselves. This will require us to live sacrificially, so that those around us might be benefitted by the love of Christ in us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members Meeting
December 3 @ 5pm

Read Romans 13:8-14

1. Paul starts with instructing us to “owe no one anything, except to love each other.” As Christians, how does this inform the way we look at debts and obligations? What other scriptures help clarify and shape our think on the topic of debt?
2. Pastor Jan mentioned that love takes pain. How does this shift our thinking of love? How does the shift in mindset help equip us for loving others?
3. How are the 10 Commandments still applicable and authoritative, even though we now live in the freedom of grace? What is the balance between the freedom of grace and the restriction of the law?
4. So often in scripture, holiness is directly contrasted with sexual sin. Why do these two opposites get paired together? Why does sexual sin have such significant consequences?
5. Paul tells us that all the “you shall not” commandments regarding our neighbors can be summed up in the command to love your neighbor as yourself. What does this mean? Why is it important to understand that we are not just called against an action, but toward a purpose?
6. Paul instructs us to put on the Armor of Light. What is this armor? How do we equip it?
7. Where has the Lord been stretching you in love for your neighbor? What has that change looked like, and how have you been equipping yourself for the task?