

# A Debt of Love

Romans 13:8-14

*"I owe, I owe, so off to work I go!"*

- Modified version – Romans 13.
- Greatest debts in NT:
  - Mt.6:12, we owe God
  - Ro.13:8, never fully paid
    - Ro.13:1-7, public debts
    - Ro.13:8ff, private debts

A debt we personally  
pay to different people

# I. Love – eternal debt, 8a

# "Owe no one"

- Does not condemn borrowing and lending.
  - Mt.5:42
- What is Paul saying?
  - Do not incur debts you cannot pay.

# “Owe no one”

- Except to love one another – an eternal debt
- Love: act in best interest of object.

I. Love – eternal debt, 8a

II. Law – fulfilled by love, 8b-9

# Love for another fulfills the whole law, 8b

- Proper response to God is seen in our love for others.
- “Law” is general; here connected with Old Testament, Ex.20
- Note: love cannot act on its own without an objective standard to guide it.
- Note: One who truly pays this debt (love) will keep the commandments, v.9 (Ex.20).

# Law and Love (Ex.20)

Loyal, 3. Mt.6:24

Kindness, 13. Josh.2:12

Faithful, 4. Jn.14:15

Pure, 14. 1 Tim.5:22

Reverent, 7. 1 Sm.2-3

Generous, 15. Ep.4:28

Set apart, 8. Ex.19:14

Truthful, 16. 1 Co.13:6

Respectful, 12. Ep.6:4

Contented, 17. Phil.4:11



## Many Jews stopped with external obedience

- Mt.5, Lord lifted disciples internally (heart) 8, 21-22, 27-28, etc. 1 Jn.5:3.
- Many think they are holy because they avoid evils
  - It obeys. Jn.14:15

## 9: combines all commandments

- People mislabel 'love': adultery, murder, stealing, covetousness...
- To gather up a plurality in a unity.
  - Give a speech: sum up large number of details under one head; recapitulate.
- Ex.20, summed up in Lv.19:18
- Ex.20 summed up in Mt.22:37-40

I. Love – eternal debt, 8a

II. Law – fulfilled by love, 8b-9

**III. License – opposite of love,**  
10

# Explains love

- If you love someone, act like it!
- Negative: love does not harm a neighbor.
- Positive: love fulfills law.
  - How much to love?
    - Mt.7:12, as self.

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**IV. Limited Time, 11**

# Know the time

Romans 1 / 2 / 3 / 6 / 16...

- Time to wake up!
- High time: salvation at stake; ...nearer
- Application –
  1. Children grow older every day.
  2. We grow older every day.
  3. Friends soon die without Christ. Jn.9:4;  
Ro.1:14
  4. Judgment is coming.

I. Love – eternal debt, 8a

II. Law – fulfilled by love, 8b-9

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IV. Limited Time, 11

V. Late Hour, 12

## The facts –

- The night is far spent.
- The day is at hand.
- Therefore, cast off works of darkness and put on armor of light.



I. Love – eternal debt, 8a

II. Law – fulfilled by love, 8b-9

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IV. Limited Time, 11

V. Late Hour, 11

**VI. Light Calls For Proper  
Walking, 13**

# Walk properly, as in the day

Do not walk in . . .

1. **Revelry** – carousing [boisterous, drunken merrymaking] reveling (unrestrained festivities)
2. **Drunkenness** – Greeks mixed wine with water
3. **Licentiousness** – fornication, licentiousness
4. **Lewdness** – self-indulgence, shameless conduct, unbridled lust
5. **Strife** – unbridled, unholy competition; puts self above others
6. **Envy** – grudges preeminence of others

I. Love – eternal debt, 8a

II. Law – fulfilled by love, 8b-9

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IV. Limited Time, 11

V. Late Hour, 11

VI. Light Calls For Proper Walk, 13

**VII Likeness, 14**

# Put on Lord Jesus

Put on:

- Gal.3:26-27, in baptism: to become children of God; justification.
- Ro.13:14, Christians, too:
  - To assume one's manner of thought and action; be intimately united to Lord...
  - Think as He thought; behave as He would; sanctification. Holy imitation.
- Make His character, feeling, works our own.
- Col.3:12-14

# Put on Lord Jesus

Lord Jesus: we are not our own Lord.

Make no provision for the flesh...

‘Do not plan for sin; give it no welcome  
...kick sin off your doorstep and you  
won’t have it in the house’

Ro.6:12-13, 17-18