

Aug 28, 2016



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
We show our love for God when we love one another

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Father, thank You for the love You shower on us day by day. Teach us, in turn, to care for others. Open our eyes to see their need and respond as You want us to.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

(Gal 5:14 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", July 29, 2016)

Series: Jesus' Model Prayer
(Matt 6:9-13)

NEXT WEEK

First Petition:
Hallowing God's Name
(Matt 6:9)

Love Fulfills the Law Matt 22:35-40; Rom 12:1-2; 13:8-10

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson examines how God has purposed that **Love Fulfills the Law**. The study's aim is to know that if we are to love others, we must understand how. The study's application is to accept that we must love those around us correctly from God's viewpoint, not society's.
(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Paul is stressing in verses Rom 13:8-10 our obligation to men in general. He is saying that our exclusive and primary obligation to men is to love them. The translation of Sanday and Headlam reflects this sense: "Let your only debt that is unpaid be that of love—a debt which you should always be attempting to discharge in full, but will never succeed in discharging." Paul is not saying that we should never incur debts, but that we should quickly and speedily pay every debt except that of love. We should strive to love, but we should never consider the debt 'paid in full.' The 'Law of Love' encompasses the whole Law of the Old Testament as it pertains to our obligation to our fellow man. The commandments mentioned in verse 9 are those of the second half of the decalogue which define our social obligations. Love never seeks the harm of our neighbor, only to accomplish that which is for his good. Therefore, to keep the 'Law of Love' is to keep the Old Testament Law which relates to our neighbor: "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the Law" (Romans 13:10). Herein is found the error of Judaism. They had perverted the Law in such a way as to serve personal interests to the detriment of others (cf. Mark 7:6-13; esp. vv. 10-11). The heart of the Law was to regulate individual behavior to the benefit of society at large. The heart of Pharisaism was to twist the Law into the service of the individual at the expense of others. In these verses also we are given a clue as to the rightful attitude toward the Law as it relates to grace. The question is really this: If Paul condemned works as a means to salvation and grace, why does he now command us to do very specific things? Aren't the commands of the New Testament just a slightly modified repetition of the Old Testament Law? We must remember that the requirements of the Law are not evil; they are holy and just and good (Romans 7:12). The Law was intended as a standard of righteousness. The Law as a standard or a goal is just as valid as it was in the Old Testament. It defines sin (Romans 7:7) and correspondingly defines righteousness. The problem with the Law was that what it demanded it did not produce. It was an excellent goal, but did not provide the means. In this way it revealed man's inadequacy to please God by his works. The grace of God to the Christian is that God not only bestows on him salvation and forgiveness of sins, He also provides the motivation and the means to live a godly life—that is to keep the Law. Rather than by the striving of human effort, God produces love in the life of the Christian which motivates him to accomplish what the Law demands. In other words, God makes the heart delight in what the Law demands. The requirements of the Law are met, but in a different way than legalistic Law-keeping. It is the Holy Spirit of God who works within us to give us the love which seeks to bless others at our own expense. The Law is still valid as a standard by which to measure our expression of the righteousness of God, but it has never been, nor will it ever be, the means by which the individual may win God's approval. To be 'no longer under Law, but under grace' does not mean that there are no standards, no commands, no necessity of obedience. The New Testament is full of imperatives and God is just and righteous in expecting us to meet them, out of gratitude, out of a desire to worship Him in Christian service, and by the power God has provided in the Holy Spirit. He is at work in us 'both to will and to do what is pleasing to Him' (Philippians 2:12-13).

(Adapted from URL: <https://bible.org/seriespage/christian-obligations-romans-13>)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The Greatest Commandments (Matt 22:35-40)

Loving God (35-38)

Loving God is fearing, serving and obeying Him (Deut 10:12-13)

Loving God is more important than what we do (Mark 12:33)

Loving God by keeping His commandments (1 John 5:1-2)

Loving God by listening to Him and holding fast to Him (Deut 30:20)

Loving God to be known by Him (1 Cor 8:3)

Loving God results in deliverance and protection (Psalm 91:14)

Loving Neighbors (39-40)

Loving neighbors comes from a pure heart, sincere faith and good conscience (1 Tim 1:5)

Loving neighbors sums up the Law (Matt 7:12)

Loving neighbors by faith working through love (Gal 5:6)

Loving neighbors by loving God (1 John 4:21)

Loving neighbors by obedience to the second great commandment (Matt 22:39-40)

Loving neighbors as we have been taught by God (1 Thess 4:9)

Sacrifice and Transformation (Rom 12:1-2)

Being a living sacrifice (1)

A living sacrifice that is cleansed by God's purity (Heb 10:22)

A living sacrifice that is acceptable to God through Jesus (1 Peter 2:5)

A living sacrifice by offering ourselves as instruments of righteousness (Rom 6:13)

A living sacrifice by exalting Jesus in our bodies (Phil 1:20)

A living sacrifice by giving of oneself (2 Cor 8:5)

Transforming of the mind (2)

Transformed into a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)

Transformed into having a new attitude of the mind (Eph 4:22-24)

Transformed through reconciliation (Col 1:21-22)

Transformed into a new self that is being renewed in the knowledge of God (Col 3:10)

Transformed through rebirth (Titus 3:5)

Practical Application of Love (Rom 13:8-10)

Loving one another (8)

Love one another as God has loved us (John 13:34)

Love one another by seeking the virtue of love (Col 3:14)

Loving one another through being imitators of God (Eph 5:1-2)

Loving one another because it is taught by God to do so (1 Thess 4:9)

Loving one another to cover sins (1 Peter 4:8)

Obeying God's commands (9)

Obedience to God proves our love of Him (John 14:21)

Obedience is better because it delights God (1 Sam 15:22)

Obedience leads to righteousness (Rom 6:16)

Obedience leads to the praise of God by others (2 Cor 9:13)

Obedience keeps us remaining in God's love (John 15:10)

Obedience leads to the reward of blessings (Deut 28:1-6)

Obedience brings the reward of freedom (James 1:25)

Benefiting others (10)

Benefit one another at every opportunity (Rom 14:19)

Benefit one another by seeking the good of others (1 Cor 10:23-24)

Benefiting one another is one of the Church's duties (Eph 4:10-13)

Benefit one another by controlling our speech (Eph 4:29)

Benefit one another by praying in the Holy Spirit (Jude 20)