

What do we owe?

Key Scriptures

Romans 13:7-10 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

⁸ Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Luke 10:29-37 ²⁹ But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ "Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² "Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. ³³ "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ "So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ "On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' ³⁶ "So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?"

³⁷ And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Key Point: Love is something we owe one another. When we do it, we fulfill God's law.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What was the longest amount of time that you borrowed something from someone? Have you ever loaned something and regretted it?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- In what ways does the debt of love differ from other debts we may incur in our lives? How is it a debt that we will never fully repay?
- How do you understand the statement "love does no harm to a neighbor, therefore love is the fulfillment of the law" (v. 10)? How does this relate to the character of God?
- In what ways does the statement "do no harm" fall short of a full definition of love?
- Why do you think Jesus' parable of The Good Samaritan is such a good example of loving your neighbor?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- How can we balance the call to love with wisdom and discernment in situations where we may need address sin or harmful behavior? How do we navigate that tension.
- Can you share a personal experience or example of showing tough love or faithful correction was a manifestation of love, even if it initially caused discomfort?
- In what ways can we practically express love to others, following the examples provided in the sermon (listening, talking, forgiving, serving)?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Choose someone you don't normally interact with to show God's love this week. Who will it be?

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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