

LOVE OWED

ROMANS 13:8-10

Owe no one anything

Romans 13:8

- Romans 13:8 Owe no one anything.
 - Confession: Thought and taught this message incorrectly most of my life.
 - It's not about financial situations.
 - If lending is commanded when asked, how can having debt be sinful?
 - Matthew 5:42: Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

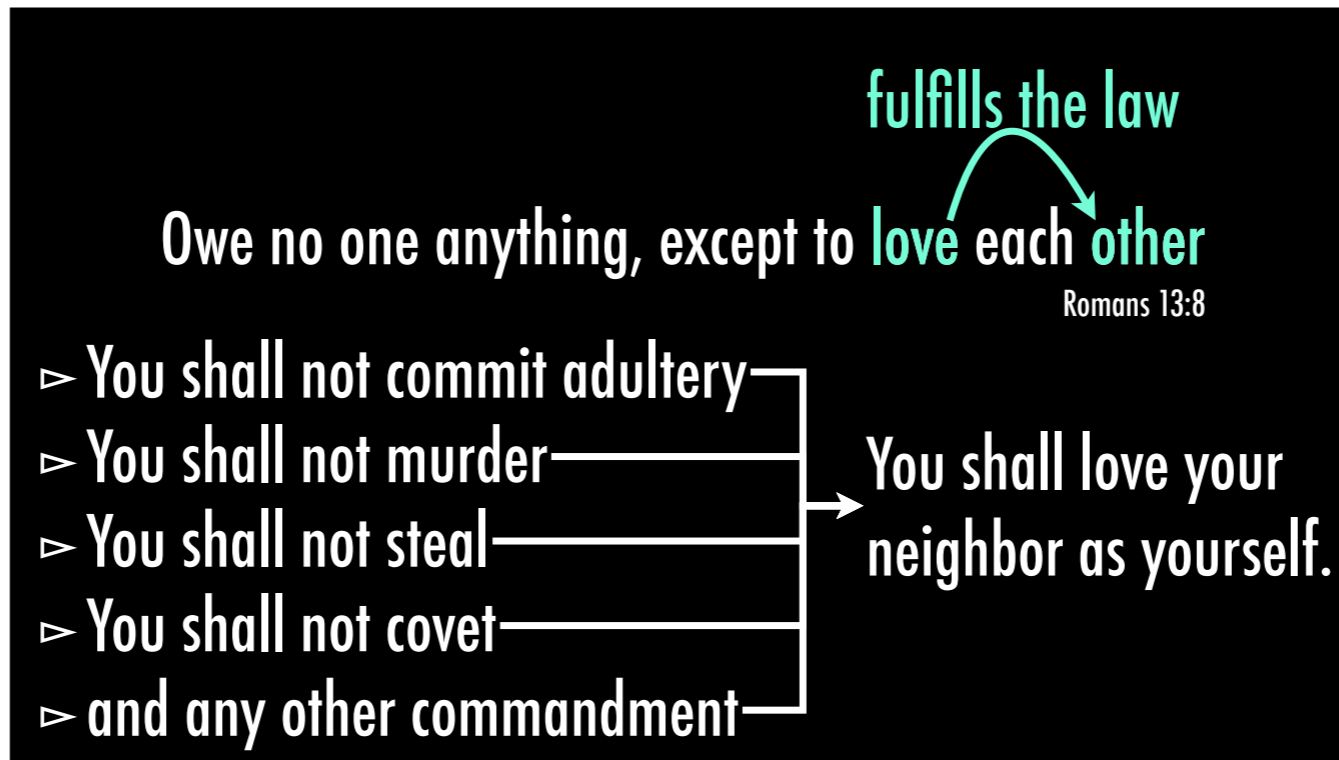
Owe no one anything, except to love each other

Romans 13:8

- Romans 13:8 (ESV) Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.
- But what does it mean to love each other?
 - 9 Let love be genuine.
 - 10 Love one another with brotherly affection.
- Sinning against another?
- Duties as disciples?
- This needs to be foremost in our minds: love.

Owe no one anything, except to **love each other**
fulfills the law
Romans 13:8

- Romans 13:8 (ESV) Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.



- Romans 13:9 (ESV) 9 For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Not included: honor father and mother; bear false witness
- ANY OTHER COMMANDMENT!
 - even the one’s about God, sacrifice, etc.?
- Jesus: two great commandments: Love God, Love neighbor as self
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Owe no one anything, except to **love each other**

Romans 13:8

Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:10

- Romans 13:10 (ESV) 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
- We owe it to one another to love each other so much that we will do no wrong to each other.
 - God sees “law” much differently than we do, in general.
 - We see laws as rules to be followed, enforce order on our society
 - “You can’t enforce morality.”
 - Speed limit

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Romans 13:10

- God sees laws as a way to help us. Point us away from our own selfish desires and toward kindness to others.
 - Committing adultery is not just about the sexual involvement.
 - It's about what it does to a family, a spouse, the other one, myself: faithfulness
- Let's consider the instruction that Paul gave to the church in Roman when brethren struggled over whether or not it is permissible to eat meat or whether we should just eat vegetables.
- In trying to help them understand this, Paul gives considerably more information about how we are to treat one another than he does in helping them understand which practice is right in God's eyes.

**Welcome him
... don't despise or pass judgment**

- Paul begins his correction of their treatment of one another by telling us to welcome even the weak in faith.
- Other translations use the word “receive”, both translations reminding us that we must choose to accept a brother, even if they don't agree with us on every so-called “issue”.
- This is often difficult for us because our tendency is to reject them and condemn them for a lack of regard for the truth and a lack of faithfulness to God.

**Decide never to put a stumbling block
or hindrance in the way of a brother.**

- It can be very difficult to disagree with a brother and not treat him as less than a brother.
- So Paul helps us by providing us with specific things we must do and how we may correct our thinking.
- First we should decide that we will not do anything that will cause my brother to stumble or make his walk with Christ more difficult.
- I see Paul as helping us to shift our view of both ourselves and our brother.
- When we despise and judge we innately see ourselves as better than our brother.
- My love is first to myself.

Walking in love.

- Second, and following closely on the first thought, Paul reminds us that if our brother is grieved, then we are not walking in love. (15)
- How much more clear does Paul need to be?
- We are to be considering how our actions are affecting my brother, regardless if we disagree with him or if we are right!

**Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God
and approved by men.**

- Paul's third key points us again to how we think of our brethren.
- We must see them as servants of Christ.
- Anyone who is a servant of Christ (and that's His call, not ours) is acceptable to God, and approved by men.
- Just to be very pointed, if a brother is acceptable to God, then we should also approve of him.
- I fear this is where we often fall short in following the way of Christ.

Let us pursue what makes for peace
and for mutual upbuilding.

- Paul urges us to “pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding”.
- “Pursue” speaks to an earnestness and diligence.
- Peace is not something we can be complacent about.
- In the very midst of striving to understand truth and righteousness, Paul emphasizes that we must pursue peace.
- Perhaps pursuing being right just comes easier to us.

Do not ... destroy the work of God.

- Paul's final instruction is very pointed. "The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God".
- This may come off as much more rude than what Paul said, but when I read this what I hear is "Just shut up about it!"
- If you want to eat only veggies, that's fine.
- But don't try to push your understanding on everyone else.
- If you want to eat meats, that's fine.
- But don't despise those who don't agree with you.

**An obligation to bear with the failings of
the weak, and not to please ourselves.**

- 15:1 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.
 - Obligation = owe (13:8)
 - Failings
 - Thayer: of error arising from weakness of mind
 - (Vine's) "infirmities," i.e., those scruples which arise through weakness of faith. The strong must support the infirmities of the weak (adunatos) by submitting to self-restraint.

LOVE OWED

- Brethren, to be like Christ, we owe it to one another to love each other.
- If I owe a debt, I know how important it is to pay what I owe.
- Our debt to each other is love... pay up!

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Love Owed

Romans 13:8-10; 14:1 - 15:13

Synopsis: Paul teaches us that a transformed mind understands that we owe it to one another to love each other. He makes this practical in discussing the struggles the Roman saints had in how they treated each other when they disagreed over various issues. Paul makes very powerful points about what love between brethren should look like.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”