

the reach of love? What will I do this week to show love to my neighbor this week?

13. How can we *be devoted to prayer* on one another's behalf this week?



Message #104: Our Debt of Love

March 5, 2017

### Quotes to Ponder

*If you owe somebody something, pay what you owe. Pay your bills and pay them on time. If you enter into a contract, fulfill the terms of the contract. That is basic integrity.*

*If our decisions about how to treat others are always motivated by love for God ... we really do not have to worry about the law, because the law reflects what is pleasing to God.*

R.C. Sproul

*Paul refuses to pit love and law against each other. The obedient thing is the loving thing; the loving thing is the obedient thing! If we want to love others, we will obey God's commands.*

Timothy Keller

*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.... The debt of love remains with us permanently and never leaves us. This is a debt which we pay every day and forever owe.*

Origen

*This is how the unsaved measure your love for God—they don't care if you pray and read your Bible and get weepy-eyed listening to praise music—they judge your vertical love for God by your horizontal love for them!*

Jon McNeff

*We can never say, "I have done all the loving I need to do." Love is a permanent obligation, a debt impossible to discharge.*

Leon Morris

*Since the world believes Christianity is responsible for racism, sexism, homophobia, the Crusades, and religious wars, we must break the stereotype of intolerance and narrow hate that seems to mark us. Naturally, we can only accomplish this as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. He is the One who works in and through us and grants supernatural love.*

Keith Krell

*Sermon*  
*Notes*

1. What in the text or sermon impacted you most? What encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?

*Exodus 20:14 (Matthew 5:27-32; Ephesians 5:21-33) —*

2. Does Paul forbid borrowing in *Romans 13:8*? Explain.

*Exodus 20:15 —(Luke 6:29-38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Ephesians 4:28)—*

3. How does God's love for us (*Romans 5:8*) make the debt of love different from other debts?

*Exodus 20:16 (Matthew 5:33-37; Luke 2:12-19; Ephesians 4:25, 29, 31) —*

4. How does Paul define the relationship between love and the Old Testament Law (*Romans 7:6, 22; 8:4; 13:8-10*)?

*Exodus 20:17 (Luke 12:22-34; 16:13; Philippians 4:11-13) —*

5. What does it mean to *love your neighbor as yourself* (*Romans 13:9*)?

8. Read *Matthew 22:34-40*. Why does Paul leave out *the great and foremost commandment* in *Romans 13:8-10*?

6. What does it mean to *love one another, even as Jesus has loved us* (*John 13:34*)?

9. What relationship is there between love and evangelism according to *John 13:35*?

Which is the higher standard? Why?

10. What does it mean that *love is the fulfillment of the law* (*Romans 13:10; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8*)?

7. Look at the last six of the Ten Commandments. For each one, write a positive, loving way it teaches us to treat our neighbors?

*Exodus 20:12 (Matthew 15:1-9; Ephesians 6:1-4) —*

11. How does loving one's neighbors fulfill the law (*Romans 13:8, 10*)?

*Exodus 20:13 (Matthew 5:21-24) —*

12. **Reflection Questions:** Am I enslaved by debt? How much love do I have for my fellow Christians? For the non-Christians around me? How can I *love* those who are lonely? Those who feel they are beyond