

"THE LAW AND LOVE"

ONE: CHRIST, CHARIS, CHURCH & CHARGE

FOREVER CHANGED

faith. forgiveness. freedom. future.

Part 31 / Romans 13:8-14 / Dr. Matt Jones

I. The Law of the Lord

A. God's Do's / Don'ts

B. Gospel Difference

C. Gracious Decree

II. The Love of the Light (Romans 13:8-14)

A. Debt: Love is Free (Romans 13:8)

B. Duty: Love is Faithful (Romans 13:9-10)

C. Day: Love is Future (Romans 13:11-14)

III. The Lessons of the Letter

A. Nomos and Grace

B. Neighbors and God

C. Needs and Going

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. In our study on Sunday, we dug into Romans 13:8-14. Go back and read the whole chapter and discuss how verses 1-7 flow into verses 8-14.
2. Romans 13:8 speaks about owing others. Does this strike a sensitive spot for you? Are there family members, friends, church family or others that you owe something? How does it weigh on you? How are you working to honor and repay them in obedience to Rom. 13:8? Maybe this doesn't strike a sensitive spot now, but in the past you experienced stress of owing another. If so, share/ discuss.
3. While Romans 13:8 does not specify what is owed in terms of what Paul exactly had in mind (but his readers certainly understood the context), let's take a sidebar together and discuss financial debt, which is a huge problem in our culture. The Bible speaks about being in debt and how financial debts can turn borrowers into slaves (Prov.22:7, Dt.28:43-44). How are you personally doing with financial debt? How does it impact your life, stress, and/or relationships? How did you get into debt? What lessons have you learned through it?
4. Building on the last question, let's spend more time talking about biblical stewardship as the remedy to our culture of consumerism and enslaved bondage to spending/debt on things we don't need. How does this impact our stewardship as believers and our giving in local church worship? How can you grow in being a frugal and wise steward? Discuss the difference between consumer debt versus investment debt (e.g. buying a big screen tv on a credit card versus a home through a mortgage). How do we best navigate making investment decisions that can easily fall into serious debilitating debt? What wisdom does Scripture give us?
5. Discuss what Rom. 13:8-14 says about love, specifically the love of God and our neighbors. Notice how in the 13th chapter Paul invokes the 10 Commandments of Moses. That said, if you have our church catechism, turn to question 7 and discuss what the law of God requires (see <http://newcitycatechism.com/new-city-catechism/#7>) and move through this section on the commandments (questions 7-12), making sure to spend time on the importance of answering questions 13-15 correctly, concerning the law, obedience and God's purpose. Talk about it.
6. Building on the above question, in the sermon the distinction between the law and gospel was covered. Why is this distinction so important to a right/proper understanding of the gospel and for living out the Christian life, not to mention reading the Bible well in its context? Discuss. If you have ever blurred these distinctions between law and gospel and it created confusion or harm for you spiritually and you are comfortable sharing, please do. Perhaps you have walked with a friend or family member coming out of a bad church, legalism or false doctrine who suffered from confusing law and gospel. If so, share and pray that God keeps our eyes always on the gospel and focused on our need for Christ.
7. In Rom. 13:13-14, Paul spoke about putting off sin. How can we pray for you as you fight sin in your heart/life this week? What sins do you need to put off?