

"The Doctrine of Consecration"

Part 12

Romans 12:1-15:7

Introduction: In the past few studies we have been looking at the believer's obligation to government. Tonight, however we are coming to several verses that are going to focus upon the believer's obligation to all mankind.

I. The Believer's Obligation to All

Notice Romans 13:8a

This verse is connected to the previous verse.

Notice Romans 13:7

Here in this verse Paul tells us that we are to be sure and pay our dues to all men. We are to pay tribute/taxes, custom/taxes on imports, fear/respect, and honor. These thoughts brought about the next verse that tells us we are to "Owe no man anything".

The statement "Owe no man anything" has been misused by many and we shall see how as we continue in our study. There are two ways to view this statement in 13:8a but only one is correct.

The statement, "Owe no man anything", is used by some to teach that we are never to borrow money. We are to wait until we have the cash and then pay for what we desire or need with cash.

These people who interpret this verse this way will buy nothing on credit neither will they possess a credit card. I have known people who lived this very way, and it is great if you never need to borrow money or if you never need to own a credit card. Those who interpret this verse this way would see borrowing as a sin. This is NOT the correct interpretation of this verse.

Paul is NOT saying that we are to owe no man anything because we have borrowed nothing, but what he IS saying is that if I have borrowed anything then I am to make sure that I repay what I have borrowed. I am not to default on the loan, but I am to be sure that I pay the lender his dues. This verse does not mean, "NEVER GO IN DEBT", but it does mean, "ALWAYS PAY YOUR DEBTS".

If this verse meant, "Never go in debt" then we would have to conclude that borrowing would be a sin. That would mean you could not borrow ANYTHING from anyone. You could not borrow a car from a friend, a shovel, a rake, ten dollars, or even a book from the

library. You would not be able to rent an apartment or a house because when you do you are borrowing the house and paying a fee to use it. If this were the meaning, then it would be sinful to lend anything because you would be causing the other person to sin as they borrowed from you. The Bible does not condemn lending and borrowing. It does however warn against getting too far in debt.

Proverbs 22:7

⁷ *The rich ruleth over the poor, and **the borrower is servant to the lender.***

This verse does not condemn borrowing but there is a warning here. We need to pay off our debts as quick as possible and be very careful about getting too deep in debt because you then become a slave of the lender. So, this verse does not condemn lending and borrowing. There are verses that encourage lending.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

⁷ *If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:*

⁸ *But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and **shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need,** in that which he wanteth.*

Psalm 112:5

⁵ ***A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth:** he will guide his affairs with discretion.*

Here we see that a man who lends to others is considered a "GOOD MAN".

Proverbs 19:17

¹⁷ ***He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD;** and that which he hath given will he pay him again.*

When we "lend" to the poor we are actually lending to the Lord because many of the poor have no means to repay and the Lord promises to repay those who lend to the poor. Remember when Elisha and the sons of the prophets needed to build a bigger building?

2 Kings 6:5

⁵ *But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! **for it was borrowed.***

The axe head was borrowed, and this was perfectly fine. When it fell in the water the concern was that it could not then be returned. The point we need to understand is that it

is NOT sinful to borrow or to lend. But when we do borrow, we must be sure to pay everything back to the lender.

Psalm 37:21

²¹ The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.

In this verse we see that this man is wicked **NOT** because he borrows but because he refuses to repay what he has borrowed. Notice the words of Zeller:

"Not paying back what you have borrowed is actually a form of stealing. It is holding on to something for too long of a time and using it as if it were yours, when it should have been returned to its rightful owner. What if you steal your neighbor's rake and it is sitting in your garage? What if you borrow your neighbor's rake and fail to return it and months later it is still sitting in your garage? In both cases you are wrongfully keeping what belongs to your neighbor and which should be in your neighbor's garage. You should not be acting as though you possess it, because it is not yours. We must respect the property of others. The difference between these two examples is seen by the way the rake got in your garage in the first place. In the first example it got there because of the sin of stealing. In the second example it got there because you borrowed it with your neighbor's permission. He said you could use it. But he did not say that you could use it and keep it for months!"

Now, there is one debt that we owe, and we will never pay it in full.

Notice Romans 13:8

The debt that we owe is to love one another. The reason we can never pay it in full is because there is always someone who needs to be loved and because the people, we now love we are to keep loving.

I can borrow twenty dollars from you this week and pay it back in full next week and that debt is paid. I am no longer obligated to that debt. But I **CANNOT** love my wife this week and say it is enough for the future for I am to love her every day for as long as I live. Every day I wake I have a debt to pay to my wife and it is a debt of love. That debt is not only to her but to all others in my life. The same is also true for you as well.

Notice Romans 13:8 again.

Love is the key to fulfilling the law.

Notice Romans 13:9-10

Paul here quotes the 7th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th Commandments.

- **Thou shalt not commit adultery** – Love keeps a person from being unfaithful.
- **Thou shalt not kill** – When we love our neighbor, we will do them no harm.
- **Thou shalt not steal** – When we love our neighbor, we will not steal from them.
- **Thou shalt not bear false witness** – When we love our neighbor, we will not lie to them or about them.
- **Thou shalt not covet** – When we love our neighbor, we will not covet what they have but will rejoice in their blessings.

These Commandments are fulfilled because we love our neighbor. Let us notice some other verses.

Matthew 22:37-40

³⁷ *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

³⁸ *This is the first and great commandment.*

³⁹ *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

⁴⁰ *On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

Galatians 5:14

¹⁴ *For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

James 2:8

⁸ *If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:*

To love one another is then fulfilling the law. Let us now consider a question, "What does it mean to love my neighbor?" Jesus made it clear in Luke 10.

Luke 10:30-37

³⁰ *And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.*

³¹ *And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.*

³² And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, 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 on him,

³⁴ And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

³⁵ And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

³⁶ Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

³⁷ And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

To love our neighbor is to:

1. Care when he is in need.
2. To reach out when no one else will.
3. To minister to him when he is hurting.
4. To sacrifice to meet his needs.

There is one more that sums it all up.

5. To do unto him what I would desire for him to do to me.

Matthew 7:12

¹² Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Conclusion:

Love is missing in the lives of many people today just as the Bible tells us it would in the last days.

2 Timothy 3:1-4

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

This list begins with men becoming lovers of themselves. Let us notice the words of Barclay on this:

"Love of self is the basic sin, from which all others flow. The moment a man makes his own will the center of life, divine and human relationships are destroyed, obedience to God and love to men both become impossible. The essence of Christianity is not the enthronement but the obliteration of self."