



OUR ONGOING DEBT

ROMANS 13:8-10 * SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

WHY THIS IS SO IMPORTANT

ROMANS 13:8-10; 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3

The absence of biblical love _____
everything else we do in service for Christ.

Love is an _____, not a _____.

It's not about how you _____ about them;
it's about how you _____ with them.

FOUR QUESTIONS TO ANSWER "HOW LOVING AM I?"

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8a

① How do I respond to _____, disappointment, or
being _____?

(v. 4a: is patient, is kind;

v. 5b: not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs)

→ ...in response to difficult _____.

→ ...when the wrong done to me is _____.

② Am I willing to put others _____?

(v. 4b: does not envy, does not boast, is not proud;

v. 5a: does not dishonor others, is not self-seeking)

③ How do I respond to _____ behavior?

(v. 6: does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth)

④ Do I assume the _____ or the _____
about others?

(v. 7: always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres)

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Many people talk about love, but there seem to be very few loving people. What often takes the place of love in our society?
2. Read Romans 13:8-10. How does Paul define the relationship between love and the last six of the Ten Commandments? For each of the last six commandments, state the command in a positive, loving way it teaches us to treat our neighbors.
3. In what way is love a proof of faith? How do we compromise our Christian witness in the way we relate to others?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a. Besides telling us what love is, this passage gives us an incidental portrait of Jesus as the ultimate expression of love. Reread these verses replacing love with Jesus. What fresh picture of Jesus do you gain through this exercise? How would you define each of love's qualities in your own words?
5. Leviticus 19:9-18. This week we saw Paul summarize what love looks like by saying, "Love your neighbor as yourself." After reading through this passage, discuss some of the principles of loving your neighbor that still apply to us today.
6. Which of the categories of love (each of the four questions of the sermon outline) do you find hardest to practice consistently? Why?