

Monday, 6 July 2015 Romans 13:8-10 [1]

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 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." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Paul moves from the previous passage of instructions regarding our relationships with authorities to our relationships with those around us and lays both under the umbrella of fulfilling (obeying) the Law.

I believe that all of Paul's writings and probably the writers of the other epistles, concerning our daily walk in the Kingdom of Heaven, reflect an underlying focus on obedience to the Law. Therefore, in a sense, the Law becomes the framework of the house, it defines the space in which we live just as the laws of the United States define the boundaries of that nation.

So, we are instructed to show self-sacrificial love to all within our [Personal Mission Field](#). This is a matter of focus, of prayerfully and intentionally seeking opportunities to be of service to those with whom we come in contact.

Tuesday, 7 July 2015 Romans 13:8-10 [2]

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 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." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

YOU (me) is the emphasis, not others. Paul is putting legs to Christ's teachings about motes and planks, (Matthew 7:3-5, Luke 6:41-42). Of course, I'm much more concerned about how you behave than how I do. It's a full time job to scrub the habits of the old man out of my heart. Much, much easier and less painful to give you a hand and some brotherly advice in "love."

That has got to be the most hypocritical example of love in existence.

Wednesday, 8 July 2015 Romans 13:8-10 [3]

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 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." Love does no

wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

I see two measures to assist me in fulfilling the Law. The first is to treat my neighbor the way I would like to be treated. I can't think of a single instance where anyone, no matter how thoroughly they despise themselves, does not have a pretty firmly fixed idea of how they should be treated on a particular matter.

Secondly, is this idea of not treating a neighbor wrongly. Now my idea of right and wrong is obviously flawed and the Spirit is working assiduously to correct the situation but I need to seek the right.

I can ask for guidance from the Spirit, I can search the Scriptures and I can check it out with a well-seasoned adviser. But do it! Yes, if we trust Him, we will obey Him and demonstrate that through our love for our neighbors.

If the "Who is my neighbor?" arises, remember how our Lord answered that question, not by proximity but by opportunity.

Thursday, 9 July 2015 Romans 14:7-13

For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

As we continue to explore the implications of the believe/faith/trust/commit/obey sequence it is important to ask and understand who's the Boss? Paul addresses this here in his usual no punches pulled, to the point style. **It is the Lord Jesus Christ.** I am the Lord's, bought by His blood, signed for by the Resurrection and sealed by the Holy Spirit. Living, I am His. Dying, I am His. I must seek to obey Him.

Friday, 10 July 2015 Romans 14:7-13

For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand

before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

The time will come for each of us when we bow before Him and declare our complete fealty but for many it will be too late. It is a time certain, a time foreordained by the LORD, God the Almighty but unknown to us.

But the offer is still open to step into that sequence of faith: to believe, to trust, to commit and to obey. Join us in the life of righteousness, peace and joy that is life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Saturday, 11 July 2015 Romans 14:7-13

*For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. **Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.***

Paul ties this passage back to Romans 13:8-10 when he points out that we can demonstrate lack of neighbor love by causing a brother to stumble. How tough it is to exhort and hold a fellow believer accountable in love. I wonder how many divisions and schisms in the Church are the scars and wounds of that failure?

Lord's Day,

12 July 2015 Psalm 119:157

Many are my persecutors and my adversaries, but I do not swerve from your testimonies.

My persecutors and adversaries are all part of the psyche of the old man, still kicking against Your grace. Help me to adhere to the Word in order to subdue those affections that would destroy my relationship with You. You are my Lord!

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms



July 6-12, 2015

Voices Together is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Psalms as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

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