



Romans 13:8-14

The Debt of Love | Oct. 12th - 18th, 2014

Warm-up: Have you ever been through *Financial Peace University*? If so, what helped you most in this study? What aspect of finances and money management do you feel you most need to grow in? Why?

- **Romans 13:8-14** further unfolds Paul’s exhortation for us to be “living sacrifices,” by walking in self-sacrificial love toward others. There is a sense of urgency that characterizes these verses.
 - What thought or encouragement from these verses do you sense the Holy Spirit is asking you to pay attention to? Why?
- Having debt can easily reveal greed or status seeking in a person’s life. It can also limit our ability to give to the Lord’s work. Even though biblically Christians are permitted to borrow, they are always accountable to pay back in full.
 - How have you traditionally related to debt?
 - Is it something you embrace as a necessary part of life?
 - Are you in favor of credit cards? Why or why not?
- **Romans 13** instructs followers of Jesus to be above board and full of integrity in their relationships with others. We are to pay both our taxes *and* our debts! Yet, there is one debt we never finish paying - the debt of love (**13:8**).
 - How did we get into “love debt” toward others (Allow **Ephesians 3:17-19** to inform your answer.)
 - Why is it true that love doesn’t *define* who our neighbor is, but *discovers* who our neighbor is? (consider the story of the Good Samaritan in **Luke 10**)
- Love has always been a defining characteristic of authentic faith (**1 John 4:20**). The great revival preacher Jonathan Edwards put love at the top of the list for determining whether someone’s faith was genuine.
 - According to the verses you read tonight, and elsewhere in the New Testament, why would Edwards make this assessment? Do you agree? Why or why not?
 - Love *does*. Only action demonstrates the sincerity of love. What is an area where the Spirit may be stirring in you to demonstrate Christ love more completely?

Wrap-up: The times are urgent. Close by praying for one another, that each of you would *genuinely love well* and be sensitive to the Spirit’s promptings.