

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – August 20, 2023

Theme: The power of God at work in us **Topic:** Love, the Fulfillment of The Law

Main Texts: Romans 13:8-14

Key verse: Romans 13:8 – “Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.” Romans 13:8 (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: At Mount Sinai, God gave the children of Israel the Law (Ten Commandments) to regulate their lives in relation to Him and with one another. These Ten Commandments were later unpacked into several hundred as captured in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. A close look at the details would reveal how these laws touched on all aspects of life. These laws became so many, that knowing all of them, let alone observing each one became nearly impossible, not even to the Pharisees who saw themselves as the keepers of the Law. During His earthly ministry, to the irritation of these keepers of the Law, Jesus Christ summarized the entire instructions of the Law to this simple statement, “... Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:31). In our text today, Apostle Paul in his teaching on the believers’ responsibility to fellow believers and others, points to this simplification offered by our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. **Read Romans 13:8; 1 Corinthians 13: 4-9. (a) Let participants share how they understand this command to ‘owe no man anything but love.’ Do you think this ‘no man’ excludes any group, race, tribe, or religion? If not, what implications of this command immediately confronts us in the light of events in the world and in our neighborhoods? (b) Compare Romans 13:8 with Luke 6:27-28. To what extent did Jesus stretch the debt of loving others? (c) Romans 13:11, 14 highlights the constraints of ‘slumber’ and lust of the flesh. In what ways do we see these two issues affecting our ability to obey this command to love all men?**

Biblical love is the determination to seek the benefit and well-being of every person we encounter, and to do this compassionately and righteously. Rather than being a burden, the debt of love to everyone should liberate every child of God from offending others, because this is exactly the way we would love to be treated, as our Lord Jesus Christ pointed out in Matthew 7:12 and 22:39. This attitude will engender forgiveness when we are offended, patience and understanding when others make mistakes, etc. No wonder God’s command says, in relation to your fellow human being, “Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not covet” (Romans 13:9). And we, believers, and non-believers alike, can attest to the fact that in a world filled with hostilities and offences, this is what is needed – this determination to seek what is best for the other’s well-being, and to do so as an unending debt!

2. **Read Romans 13:9-10 (a) Romans 13:10 says that “love does no wrong to others...” Let participants discuss how this plays out as a fulfillment of the Law. (b) In Matthew 23:23, 28, our Lord Jesus Christ criticized the Pharisees who were experts at keeping the Law. In what ways are believers manifesting similar behavior? How can we make amends in our local church? (c) Romans 13:14 points to the flesh as a major obstacle to this command to love others. According to Romans 13:14 and Galatians 5:22-23, what is the solution to this problem? How does it work?**

“Love never ends...” (1 Corinthians 13:8 ESV). The implication of this is that the debt to love others is one which we can only be freed from upon our death! But there are obstacles – the sinful world is out there throwing its immorality and debauchery at us to slow us down or even deaden our sensitivities. But amid all these, we are reminded that our best chance at fulfilling this command is in wearing the presence of Jesus Christ like a cloak (Romans 13:14). Without a doubt, fulfilling this obligation of love requires an inner transformation that only Christ can bring to an individual!

3. **Read Romans 13:11-14. (a) Romans 13:11 says this command is urgent. Why is it urgent, and what is the implication of this urgency in how we go about paying this debt of love? (b) What are the dangers of procrastination and what must we do to succeed? (c) Christ’s love cost Him dearly. What price must we be willing to pay to fulfill this command?**

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, please help me to daily pay the debt of Love to all starting today. Grant that Your Church sees the criticality of fulfilling this debt of Love to all men. Amen.