

THE DEBTS OF LAW AND LOVE

Romans 13:8-10

Introduction:

- The apostle Paul uses:
 1. Only _____ words to deal with the issue of legal debts.
 2. More than _____ words to deal with debt of love.
- How must we Christians responsibly handle these debts?

T _____ Debts – Legal (8a)

- The d _____ of legal debts in the Bible
 1. Some see this mandate of owing nobody nothing as a command to n _____ go into debt.
 - a. That interpretation sounds b _____ when you just look at those three words.
 - b. That interpretation ignores the c _____
 2. The context defines what is meant by “owing”
 - a. Verse 7 states that we are to pay what is d _____
 - b. Only when something is o _____ do you put yourself in a position of “owing.”
- The d _____ of legal debts in our society
 1. We live in a society that encourages debt
 - a. Credit c _____
 - b. Rent to o _____
 - c. P _____ plans for furniture, cars, homes, technology, and more.
 2. Most people find themselves getting behind and spending hard-earned money on i _____
- The d _____ of legal debts in life’s journey should be temporary
 1. Don’t view debt as a means of g _____ a bunch of possessions (“the easy payment plan” is not the wise road – look at where **MOST** are who are on this road)
 2. View debt as a temporary road to financial f _____ - where you eventually have no payments for anything (this is the wise road – look at where **ALL** are who travel this road)
- A living example – your pastor
 1. Rented one year then bought a home (rent = monthly pmt)
 2. Saved for future cars (made payment to self for future cars during ownership of current cars)
 3. Always paid off credit cards and reconciled statements (NEVER paid interest)
 4. Always have given to God’s work first (giving never decreased but always increased)
 5. Has reached the point of zero debt and never makes payments for anything anymore!
 6. Wisdom says this – make legal debt a road to freedom from all debt.

E _____ Debt – Love (8b-10)

- The d _____ of love
 1. Agape love – unselfishly acting for the g _____ of another person.
 2. This is an unconditional love – no s _____ attached
- The d _____ of love
 1. The action word of love is in the present tense in the Greek text which emphasizes an on _____ action.
 2. This debt can never be p _____ off.
 3. Acting for the good of another fulfills the L _____.
- The d _____ of love
 1. Each o _____ - those within the church
 2. Your n _____ - who is that? (Lk 10:29-37)
 - a. “Neighbor” literally means “one who is _____”
 - b. Jesus’ parable defines neighbor as one to whom you must draw n _____ in order to do good to them (v. 36 - *which one proved to be a neighbor*).
- Application

1. Rom 16:16 – Greet each other with a h_____ kiss (go beyond what is customary and make the greeting meaningful)
 - a. Within the church – acknowledge others, never i_____
 - b. Within your family – do you acknowledge your dog better?
 - c. At your work place – acknowledge (its not all business)
 - d. In the public eye – be a friendly f_____
2. Fellowship/Service
 - a. Within the church – p_____ for each other; get involved in a s_____ group; interact before and after church; be ready to s_____
 - b. Within your family – q_____ time; serving
 - c. Every where else – look for opportunities to do g_____