

Romans 13:7-10 *Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. 8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.* The morning, we are going to look at the Debt of Love, the Duty of Love, and time permitting, the Design of Law.

I. THE DEBT OF LOVE

A. Note the context and transition: *7. Render therefore to all their **due**: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.* The Greek word for "due" = ophelle = that which is owed, a debt, a duty. This word is a noun; Now, note in verse 8. (*8 Owe no one anything except to love one another*) the Greek word for "owe" = Opheilo = to owe, to owe money, to be in debt for that which is due. Sometimes this word is translated, "ought," and other times it is translated "duty," other times it is translated, "be bound." God is telling us what our duty is to government, not He is changing it to our duty to one another.

B. Some incorrectly use this verse to tell Christians that they are never justified in going into debt of any kind. They incorrectly teach that borrowing money is a sin and is disobedience to our Lord and Savior. Old Testament Laws regulated the borrowing and lending of money. Israelites were not allowed to charge interest to the poor, but it did not forbid lending with honest and reasonable interest to others.

Exodus 22:25: *"If you lend money to any of My people who are poor among you, you shall not be like a moneylender to him; you shall not charge him interest. (see Deut.15:7-11; Ps.15:5).* Jesus gave his tacit approval of borrowing and lending money in these passages: **Matthew 5:42** *"Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away."* **Luke 6:35** *"But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil."* In matters of business, it is often necessary that money be borrowed, i.e., to purchase seed and fertilizer for the crops. Jesus highly commended the 2 servants who wisely invested money, but he rebuked the servant who merely buried his money saying, *"You ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interests."* "When borrowing is truly necessary, the money should be repaid as agreed upon with the lender, promptly and fully....Whatever is owed must be paid on time and in full (MacArthur)."

C. We owe a debt of love: Verse 8 tells us that we have a debt to pay and that we are duty bound to show love to others. When we do this, we are showing love to Jesus Himself, for Jesus said, *"Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me."* **see Matt.25:35-36,40**
John 13:34-35 *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* We are to love our brothers and sisters in Christ and we are to love our enemies. Turn to and read: **Matthew 5:43-48**

II. THE DUTY OF LOVE *8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.* **A. Put On Love Col.3:12-14** **B. Pursue Love 1 Cor.14:1**

III. THE DESIGN OF LOVE The relationship between love and the law is similar to the relationship between faith and works. Love is the Spirit of the Law. The letter of the law brings death, but the Spirit of the Law brings life.

A. Love Fulfills the Law: by doing no harm to another

B. By demonstrating positive actions toward others **Read Matthew 5:17-20**