

Group Resource

**Sermon Notes – Sunday, November 4, 2012**

**ONE ANOTHER**

**Message:** “The debt of love”

**Scripture:** Romans 13:7-10

Because of God’s great love for us in sacrificing his own Son for our sins, our obligation to God is to fulfill the continuing debt of love towards one another. The love described by God is distinct from selfish love because Godly love ACTS in TRUTH and does no harm to its neighbor.

- I. 1 – What does it mean to love one another?
  - a. God desires that our love towards one another encompasses more than making people feel good or giving them everything they want. God is love and those who try to walk in love without first experiencing the love of God, will always give others a counterfeit expression of love.
  - b. A counterfeit love outwardly looks genuine, but the heart-motivation is really about manipulating someone else to get what is wanted.
  - c. We often accept selfish love because we think that we are doing someone a favor by loving them. Instead, our love towards one another is part of our obligation to God.
- II. 2 - We have a debt to God to love one another
  - a. *Debt is an obligation incurred as a result of some benefit transferred.* We have received the benefit of eternal life as a result of God sacrificing his Son on the cross for our sins. The benefit that we have received far outweighs the obligation.
- III. 3 – In addition to realizing that we owe a debt to God, we must also observe the terms of how the debt is to be repaid.
  - a. Our obligation of love is not something that we can fulfill by one good deed or by loving one another based upon our own preferences, it is “a continuing debt” to love one another according to God’s standards until we leave this earth. (v8)
  - b. You cannot fully understand how to repay this debt towards others apart from knowing and experiencing the amazing love of God. (1 John 4:7-11)
  - c. Selfish love is about talk but *Godly* love **ACTS** in **TRUTH**. (1 John 3:18)
- IV. 4 – One aspect of Godly Love ACTING in TRUTH is that it “does no harm to its neighbor”
  - a. Harm is distinct from pain. Harm inflicts a negative outcome for our lives. Painful experiences may challenge us, but in the larger scope, it helps us to mature.
  - b. Our love can harm someone when we pacify them or let them walk outside of the will of God because we are ashamed of what the Word of God says about an issue.
  - c. Godly love doesn’t harm others with careless words, careless deeds, or self-righteous judgments. Godly love doesn’t avoid difficult issues but deals with issues straight on based upon God’s word

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**Let's Talk Notes – Week of November 4, 2012**

**Message:** "The debt of love"

**Scripture:** Romans 13:7-10

- 1) If you could serve as an apprentice for anyone in the world, who would it be and why?
- 2) As you reflect back on last weekend's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp?
- 3) For parents, how do you show love towards your children? For those who are not parents, how did your parents show their love towards you? Are there times where you misunderstood their love or took it for granted? How?
- 4) **Read 1 John 4:7-12.** What does the writer say about genuine love? What does it mean to have God's love perfected in us? How would you explain to someone why God's love is amazing?
- 5) Describe the difference between selfish and Godly love? How can you recognize the difference between the two in your actions towards others? And in others actions towards you? What are some practical ways that you can show Godly love to others in your family; the workplace; the church; your neighborhood; your school; and other places?
- 6) What are some ways that love that is not rooted in Godly truth or love that is based upon our own preferences can cause harm towards ourselves and others? Have you used careless words, careless deeds or self-righteous judgments in dealing with others?
- 7) Pastor Joseph said that, "Godly love doesn't sit by when injustice is happening or stay silent when error is being regarded as truth." Do you agree or disagree with this statement. Why must Godly love include more than just talk but also include action on our part? (See 1 John 3:17-18) Are there some situations that you could have done a better job of loving your neighbor in Godly truth.