

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – October 17, 2021

Theme: Love: A More Excellent Way Topic: Love fulfills the law

Main Texts: Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 22:34-40

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

INTRODUCTION: Broadly speaking, the Book of Romans can be divided into two sections. Section 1, Romans 1-11, deals with the failure of the law to satisfy its own demands. Thus, forming the basis for God’s mercy in sending a Redeemer, through whom righteousness was then imputed to man through faith. Section 2, then focuses on how those who have received this gift of righteousness are to practice it going forward (Romans 12-16). So, Romans 12 opens with *‘Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of.’* (Romans 12:1 NIV). It goes on, from Romans 12:9, to illustrate what this acceptable life looks like in actions and ends at Romans 13:10 with the profound statement that *“Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.”*

1. Read Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:17-19; 13:8 (a) How does the word ‘owe’ help you understand the seriousness of this command to love others? (b) When we think about the clause ‘owe no one anything’ and ‘love does no harm to a neighbor’, who and what does this command include?

When one thinks about the Law as contained in the Old Testament, it is difficult to associate all the ‘Dos’ & ‘Don’ts’ with love. But that was exactly what the Law was all about. And what we failed to see; Jesus clarified. First was in the popular “Sermon on the Mount” where He appeared to be turning the Law on its head with those popular *‘Blessed are the...’* and *“You have heard that it was said ...”* And as if to reassure the Jews of His day, Jesus declared, *“For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”* (Matthew 5:18 NKJV)

2. (a) What does Jesus’ summary of the 10 Commandments in Matthew 22:36-40 say to you about love being at the center of those Laws? (b) Galatians 5:14 & 6:2 speak of fulfilling the law in the single decree to love others as oneself. What do you make of that? (c) What does John 13:34-35 contribute to this idea of love being the fulfillment of the law?

Like was said earlier, the first 11 chapters of the Book of Romans dealt extensively with the law and its failure to satisfy its own demands. In Romans 8:3-4, we read that *“The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So, God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin’s control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.”* Thus, the law formed the basis for God’s mercy in sending a Redeemer, through whom righteousness was attributed to man through faith. That is why Galatians 3:19 tells us that the law was given as a guardian, holding us until Christ (the promised ‘Seed’ of Abraham). No wonder Jesus said in Matthew 5:17 (NIV) that He had not *“come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”*

3. (a) Galatians 3:21-22 talks about the law’s inability to give life. How does this help us differentiate the fulfillment of the law in loving versus what Christ did for the believer? (b) What additional clarification does Romans 8:3-4 & Romans 10: 4 provide on this subject? (c) What warning should we take note of in Romans 10:3 as we think of loving others as a fulfillment of the law?

Prayer: LORD Jesus, thank You for fulfilling the law for us so that we can freely love others as our expression of Your love for us. Help us to increasingly be more like You in how we love others. Amen.