

**Love Fulfills the Law
Romans 13:8-10**

Love others: it's a debt we will always owe. 8a

♦ Paul uses *owe* for a clever transition (see v. 7), but is he forbidding any borrowing? See Dt. 15:7,8, Ex. 22:25, Matt. 5:42, Lk. 19:22,23.

♦ Debt creates bondage, Prov. 22:7. "Debt is a wrecking ball both to your money and your mental health." (Dave Ramsey). But what is Paul's concern here? Note Ps. 37:21 reveals what is forbidden. The NIV is good here: *Let no debt remain outstanding . . .*

Why love others: it fulfills the Law and deters evil. 8b-10

♦ Jesus previously summed up the Law with this command (Matt. 22:36-40), which refers back to Lev. 19:18. See also Gal. 5:14, Js. 2:8.

♦ Paul's primary concern is, as always, our love for fellow believers (*one another*), but here it appears broadened as in Lk. 10:2-36.

♦ Paul quotes commandments #6,7,8,10 plus *other commandments* to support the claim that love is expressed through the Law. Paul is not reinstating the OT Law but pointing out it aimed to promote love.

♦ Love is how one avoids doing evil (*kakos*, cf. 13:3,4) to one's neighbor. Thus, the Government, the OT Law, and love have the same purpose of deterring evil behavior. See 12:9, 1 Cor. 13:6.

