

At the end of the service last Sunday, when I agreed to lead the next 2 Sunday services in Pastor Clark's absence, I, along with most of you, was hoping that we would be worshiping together. While not in church, I wanted to share some thoughts that, hopefully, will focus our hearts and minds on the sacrifice of Jesus. I pray that this finds you all safe and healthy during this trying time. I will miss seeing all of you and hope that you lift up each other in prayer, as well as all those affected in any way by this disease.

Yours in Christ, Kay

A Debt That Is Never Repaid

Romans 13: ⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet,"^[a] and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."^[b] ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.

When we think of debt, we likely think of owing someone money. Someone will lend us money that we need and don't currently have, and we know that the money must be repaid to the lender when it is due. Likewise, we may borrow a piece of equipment or a tool from a neighbor and we know that it must be returned so that we are not in their debt.

Paul, in his letter to the Romans, is referring to human relationships, not money or things. Love for each other is the one thing that cannot ever be paid off. No matter how much people have loved, they always have the obligation to keep on loving one another. This includes fellow Christians and non-Christians. We know Jesus taught that anyone who is in need is our neighbor; loving them by doing what helps meet their needs

encompasses our moral and social responsibilities laid down by the Mosaic law.

In this season of Lent, think of the debt of love that we owe and can never repay to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Out of his great love for us, He willingly endured the cross and grave. We can claim victory over death by His unconditional and sacrificial love for us. His love is the true example of how we are to love others.

A wonderful hymn came to my mind when thinking about the debt of love we owe. The 4th verse of Isaac Watts' hymn, "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" states, 'But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give myself away, --Tis all that I can do.' Loving God and loving our neighbors is the best example of giving ourselves away.