

Owe Nothing But the Debt of Love

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.⁹ The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”¹⁰ Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:8-10

1. What does it cost us to be in financial debt?

The further one goes into debt the more one gives up the greatest asset God has given to all of us.

What is our greatest asset? _____

**It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.
Galatians 5:1.**

When I give up my greatest asset I am actually giving up:

- my time
- my strength
- my family
- my friends
- my ability to fully serve the Lord and my neighbor –

The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender. Proverbs 22:7

Dave Ramsey’s “Financial Peace University” at daveramsey.com

2. “What does it mean to be in the continuing debt to love one another”?

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit is a giving God.

Our Trinitarian God is radically – extravagantly - generous.

God:

- Gives love evidenced in sending his Son to die for us.
- Gives mercy
- Gives peace
- Gives grace
- Gives forgiveness
- Gives blessings
- Gives favor, protection, and the list goes on

When Paul tells us to be in “continuing debt to love one another” Paul is taking the:

- ✓ negative,
- ✓ binding,
- ✓ controlling,
- ✓ manipulating,
- ✓ life killing aspects of worldly financial debt and

➤ Transforming the idea of debt into the:

- ✓ positive,
- ✓ freeing,
- ✓ releasing,
- ✓ accepting,
- ✓ Giving, life-style that reflects the very nature and heart of God.

What would a life of indebted love, owed to our brothers, sisters and neighbors look like?

The freedom that Christ gave us was not just freedom **from our sin** – it is the **freedom to fully use** the gifts and talents God gave us.

And here is the key point of the freedom we have been given: the use of those gifts and talents was never intended for us to use simply for our own gain – it was always intended that we use our freedom so that others would be set free as well.

Which means that the debt of love is not about me being free to do what I please, instead, the debt of love is about being free to do what pleases the Lord.

What pleases God?

That we would love God first, and then love others as we love ourselves.

Not just a casual, lukewarm, little bit of love, ---- but love to the point that we are doing everything possible, as much as we can, to show genuine concern for others who have a need.

Like financial debt, the debt of love requires that we make regular payments.

What do those payments look like?

- Making time with God in prayer and scripture reading a priority.
- Saying no to the things of this world and yes to righteousness.
- Respecting and treating others justly.
- Doing no harm or not taking advantage of others.
- Yielding to Yellow lights. ☺
- Putting your shopping carts in the shopping cart corrals so that they don't run into our cars.

What kind of payments is God asking you to make?

- ❖ _____
- ❖ _____
- ❖ _____
- ❖ _____

Learning to live within one's means will allow you to be free to love and help others which means you will be able to experience the blessed life that God wants you to have.