



THE LAWS OF THE LAND

"The Believer's Spiritual Duty"

"What God says about Love"

Romans 13:8-10

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 All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1046.
 In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.
 Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

REVIEW:

1. Last week: "The Believer's Secular Duty"
2. Here's what we are to do: Know that God is sovereign, obey the laws, pay our taxes, give honor to those in authority.
3. Here's why we are to do it: It honors God and "it is right."
4. Also, we need to know our founding documents, pray for our leaders, vote, engage in the process, convey our convictions to our children and above all, "We cannot remain silent."
5. We must obey 'The Laws of the Land' until they conflict with 'The Laws of God'. (If put in a situation where we must choose, we must obey God, not man.)

Continue to Love!

1. Love is a continuing debt.

Romans 13:8, HCSB - ⁸ Do not owe anyone anything [this phrase is sometimes interpreted to mean that a Christian is never justified in going into debt of any sort. Neither the OT or NT categorically forbids borrowing or lending. Based on the Greek (lit., "out of obligation"), I believe it will be better understood as "never be in default" (ATR) or never borrow unnecessarily; a contrast illustration is certainly given here], except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

"The debt of love remains with us permanently and never leaves us. This is a debt which we pay every day and forever owe." - Dr. John MacArthur

Romans 13:8, PME - ⁸ Keep out of bad debt altogether, except the perpetual debt of love which we owe one another.

2. Love is a command of God.

Romans 13:9, HCSB - ⁹ The commandments: Do not commit adultery [because such sinful defilement of a person shows disregard for another's purity; sexual sin comes from impure, sinful lust, never from pure love]; do not murder [as love does not seek revenge or rob others of their life]; do not steal [as love does not rob others of their property]; do not covet [an inward sin—only you and God know about this—but love has no part in any unrighteousness, especially lusting after what's not yours]; and whatever other commandment—all are summed up by this: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 15:19, HCSB - ¹⁹ For from the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false testimonies, blasphemies.

Romans 13:9, TLB - ⁹ If you love your neighbor as much as you love yourself you will not want to harm or cheat him, or kill him or steal from him. And you won't sin with his wife or want what is his, or do anything else the Ten Commandments say is wrong. All ten are wrapped up in this one, to love your neighbor as you love yourself.

"Orders no longer form the basis for discussion, but for action."
 - General Bernard Montgomery (UK)
 "Instant obedience is the only kind of obedience there is; delayed obedience is disobedience."
 - Thomas a Kempis

3. Love is the completion of the law.

Romans 13:10, HCSB - ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor. Love, therefore, is the fulfillment of the law.

1 Corinthians 13:13, HCSB - ¹³ Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Life Application Section

Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can,
 In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can,
 As long as ever you can.
 - John Wesley

Brothers and sisters, instead of loving people, we usually label them. Instead of caring, we often criticize. Instead of getting close to them, we often stay away from them. If there are two things that we all need to learn about people, they are:
 Stop judging them. Start loving them.

- Dr. Charles Swindoll