

# Home Group Questions

the week of 1/21/2018

Romans 13:8-10

## THE POWER OF LOVE!

### GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on the book of Romans. This week, the focus was on the power of love and how foundational love is pleasing God and living the Christian life.

### LOOKING IN THE WORD...

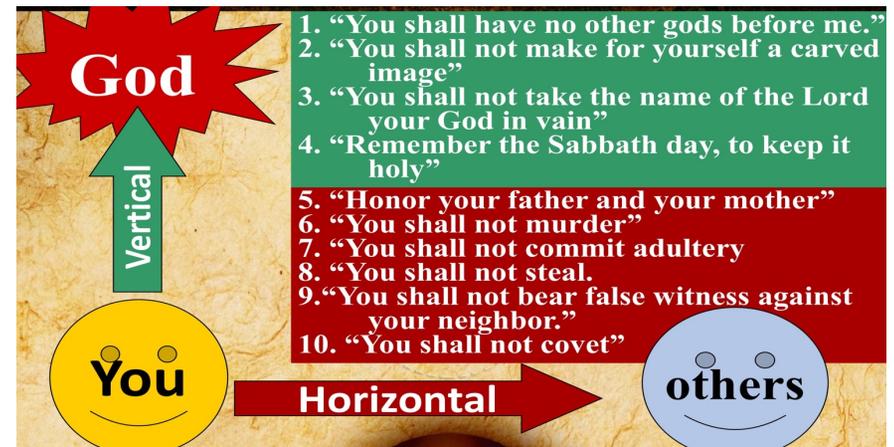
**1. Read Romans 13:8-10.** This passage highlights the primacy of love. That God's love ultimately motivated Him to send His Son to save the world (John 3:16) so even our salvation is the result foundationally of the love of God. Discuss how some people see Christianity as a "bunch of don'ts"...when in reality this passage indicates that Christianity is one big "DO"...and that is the doing of "love". How can we communicate this to a world that misunderstands the concept of unconditional love? How does this concept change the way you live the Christian life and highlight our need to not just be obedient...but to be obedient with this motivation of love?

**2. One commentator wrote** about living in such a way as to pay towards the debt of love that we all owe. Discuss the following quote and talk about ways you relate to the struggle he expresses here:

**"It's the same with the debt of love, except that you never will get it paid off. You'll never get to the point where you can honestly say, "I love my wife as much as I should. I don't need to work at it any longer." The reason that it's difficult to love others is that it always requires self-sacrifice or self-denial. I'd really rather sit there and watch the news or a sports program**

**on TV than get up and help my wife with the kids or with the dishes. Besides, doesn't she realize that I worked hard all day (as if she didn't!)? Or at church, you're so focused on talking with your friends that you don't notice a visitor who is standing there all alone. You have to take your focus off yourself and put it on others and their needs in order to work at this debt of love that you owe."**

**3. Read the familiar passage of Matthew 22:34-40.** Discuss as a small group the 10 commandments as illustrated below in the diagram that Pastor Mel shared. How do the two great commandments relate to the 10 commandments and the more positive approach to pleasing God. Can you relate to how God doesn't just want an obedience to the letter of the law if it's not accompanied with obedience of the heart as well? How can you relate to this if you have raised children in your life? How important to you was not only their obedience but also the attitude with which they obeyed?



**4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 if you have additional time and discuss what agape love is to look like in our relationships with God and others.**

### MOVING FORWARD...

Thank the Lord for His love and ask Him to fill your life with agape love so that It overflows into everything you do.