

GOSPEL GRACE

CHURCH

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP GATHERING

THE CONTINUAL DEBT OF LOVE - ROM 13.8-10

OCTOBER 28, 2012 - 10:30am

Thanks for coming to Gospel Grace Church today! Today in our worship gathering, we will celebrate communion. Communion is a meal that Jesus commands us to share with one with another to remember what He did for us on the cross. When describing the bread and the cup, Jesus said, "this is my body...this is my blood." Communion is about Jesus! So, today as we eat the bread and drink the cup, would you remember and rejoice in the perfect Lamb that gave Himself for you?

For our preaching time this week, we look again at the end of the book of Romans. In Romans 13, Paul tells us that our greatest debt must be the debt of love to others. Last week, Paul turned our attention to government that we might give to it what we owe. This week, we look at our neighbors to see what is owed to them. Paul tells sacrificial Christians that we owe them love. We are bound to love our neighbors by the law! The demands of loving our neighbor are great, but there is more than enough sacrificial love available to us in the mercies of God. Love is not to be a part of your life, but all of your life. Love is to be the law that we live our lives by! Today, would you prayerfully ask God to grow you in your love for your neighbor? Pastor Lukus has given you several questions on the next page to help you apply the truth of the gospel to this issue. Let's live the gospel, channel grace, and be the church this week!

As God unites us around the gospel of grace, we all have an obligation to use our gifts more and more for the body (Romans 12:6-7)! If you find yourself resonating with the philosophy and mission of Gospel Grace Church, would you talk to one of the Pastors about committing to the body and finding ways to use your gifts to bless one another? We'd love to connect you with a ministry!

NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME - 10:30AM @ FORT DOUGLAS POST CHAPEL

THE URGENCY OF GODLY LIVING - ROM 13.11-14

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SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

- ☀️ **(Rom. 13:8) starts out by directing Christians that they should let no debt remain outstanding.** If you owe a car payment on the 15th of the month, pay it on time. If your school loan requires payback, don't default on it. I read the story of a Christian who owed money to many people, including his fellow church members. One night he waxed eloquently during a prayer meeting: "Lord, give us devil-driving faith." One of the men praying with him said, "Amen Lord, and give us debt-paying faith as well!" Believers who consistently pay their bills late, or don't pay them at all, give the Lord and his church a bad reputation. Are there some debts you need to pay, some bills that need attention in your life? If you need some help with financial stewardship, see one of the pastors and ask them to guild you with principles from the Word.
- ☀️ **The greatest debt we owe is love.** One of the church Fathers, Origen (A.D. 185-254), wrote "Let your only debt that is unpaid be that of love. We must pay it daily and yet always owe it." Perhaps you need to confess your failure to pay the debt of love to those around you.
- ☀️ **Loving the lovable is easy. Loving irritable, cranky, annoying, frustrating, crabby, unreasonable, cantankerous people, is hard.** In each of our lives there are people who we find hard to love. Christ instructed us to "love our neighbor as ourselves." Who is God spurring you to love this week? _____. How will you demonstrate your love? _____. Remember, the degree of your self-seeking should be the measure of your self-giving. As energetic, creative, and persevering as you are in pursuing your own happiness, be so in the pursuit of others'. If you need encouragement along the way, read (Luke 10:25-37).
- ☀️ **When we fulfill the law through love, we magnify Christ.** What the law demanded, it could not provide. Only Christ can change us into loving people (Rom. 7:4-6). Ask him to transform you, and renew you. Ask him to help you display the fruit of the Spirit – love this week (Gal. 5:22).

With Gospel Grace,
Pastor Lukus