

WHAT ARE WE KNOWN FOR?

THE PASSAGE

Romans 13:8-10

AN IMPORTANT SIDEBAR

- (1) This passage has nothing to do with

DEBT or **BORROWING MONEY**.

Romans 13:7-8

- (2) It's foolish to borrow money so we can

LIVE ABOVE OUR MEANS.

Proverbs 21:20 Proverbs 22:7 Proverbs 13:7 Proverbs 22:26-27
Proverbs 3:28 Psalm 37:21

- (3) It's neither foolish nor wrong to borrow

money to **MAKE MONEY**.

Luke 10:35

THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

- (1) Why it's so **IMPORTANT**.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 Revelation 2:1-5

- (2) It's an **ACTION** not a **FEELING**.

Matthew 5:44 Luke 6:32-36 Luke 10:25-37

- (3) A revealing **CHECKLIST**:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Food for Thought for the week of July 9, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This weekend we heard Romans 13:9 where Paul sums up what love looks like by saying, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Here Paul is quoting another passage in the Old Testament that greatly expands what this concept means. Read through Leviticus 19:9-18 and jot down principles of loving your neighbor that could still apply to us today.

Leviticus 19:9-18 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹ "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God.

¹¹ "Do not steal.

"Do not lie.

"Do not deceive one another.

¹² "Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.

¹³ "Do not defraud or rob your neighbor.

"Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight.

¹⁴ "Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the LORD.

¹⁵ "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

¹⁶ "Do not go about spreading slander among your people.

"Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the LORD.

¹⁷ "Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt.

¹⁸ "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

2. Larry reminded us that love is an action, not an emotion. This is especially important for us to remember given how many divorces occur when people "fall out of love" when the strong feelings for one another aren't there as before. Fortunately for us, we don't have to guess on what love in action looks like because the Bible gives us many examples. Read through the following "love is an action" verses and write down how you might put them into practice today.

Romans 12:10 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Colossians 3:12-17 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with

gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Philippians 2:3-4 *New International Version (NIV)*

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Can you think of any ways you're already putting these verses into practice?

3. Self-reflection is an important part of growth and change. If we're able to see deficiencies or areas of needed growth, we're much more likely to pursue them. Unfortunately, many of us struggle to see where we need to grow, or maybe avoid the topic altogether. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, which we heard over the weekend, we have a great opportunity to self reflect. As you go through the 15 things listed, rank yourself on each from 1-5, with 1 being "needs work" to 5 being "doing great."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Are there any areas you'd like to work on in the next few weeks?