

# Love Fulfills the Law, Part 1

*John MacArthur*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 13:8-10.

B. Enthusiasm is easier than obedience. (Romans 7:14)

C. Obedience is still essential to the life of the believer. There is no power, blessing or joy without obedience.

D. The true test of a Christian is his obedience. (Psalm 119, I Peter 1:2, Philippians 2:12, Romans 16:19, 7:22)

E. Obedience means to keep God's Word.

F. Obedience is sometimes restrained by our flesh.

## II. Salvation affects our relationship to society. The key way it affects us is through love.

A. All of obedience is reduced to love.

B. When one lends money to someone in need, the Lord will pay him back. (Psalm 37:26, Proverbs 19:7, 17, Matthew 5:42, Luke 6:35)

C. The only debt that a person constantly should owe is to love one another. (Matthew 25:27, Psalm 37:21, Matthew 5:44, Romans 12:14, 12:20, Galatians 6, Colossians 3:14, I Corinthians 14:1, Philippians 1:9, I Timothy 2.15, II Peter 1.22)

D. Love is...

1. Teaching others the Word of God. (II Corinthians 6, Ephesians 4)

2. Ministering to the needs of others. It leads others to the Lord. (Hebrews 6:10)

3. What covers the sins of others. (I Peter 4, I Corinthians 13, Ephesians 4:15, John 15:12-15)

E. We can love because we have a new capacity from the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5)

## III. Appropriating love...

A. We must comprehend what is available. (Ephesians 3:15)

- B. We must submit to the Holy Spirit. (I Thessalonians 4, Ephesians 5:22)
- C. We must purify our hearts. (I Peter 1:22)
- D. We must realize the urgency of love. (I Peter 4:7)
- E. We must choose to love. (Colossians 3:14)
- F. We must be with believers and not isolate ourselves. (Hebrews 10:24)
- G. We must concentrate on others. (Philippians 2)
- H. We must consider the results.

#### IV. Application.

- A. Mend a quarrel.
- B. Search out a forgotten friend.
- C. Replace a suspicion with a trust.
- D. Let bitterness die.
- E. Write an unexpected letter.
- F. Encourage someone you know well with how much he or she means to you.
- G. Keep a promise.
- H. Ask God to help you forget a wrong that was done to you.
- I. Reduce your demands on the people in your house.
- J. Say thanks all day.
- K. Tell someone you love him or her repeatedly.
- L. Pray for an enemy.
- M. Send a check to someone you know who has a need.
- N. Ask God to help you love the way that Jesus loved.

#### **Application questions:**

1. How can all of obedience generally be reduced to love? Explain.

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2. Which application do you fear doing the most? Why?

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3. Which application will you put into effect this week? How will you do it?

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