

Love—Christian Style

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 13:8-10.
- B. Love fulfills the obligations we have in all relationships.
- C. Love really sums up everything. The common denominator is love.

II. The debt of love involves a new capacity.

- A. One is to owe a man nothing but love.
- B. It is okay to borrow since it is right for people to lend without interest. (Exodus 22:25, Psalm 37:26, Matthew 5:42, Luke 6:35)
- C. It is okay to borrow in an area of need but not for other things. (Psalm 37:21)
- D. One's witness to the world is to be clear. (Romans 6:14)
- E. Love is the magnet of Christianity.
- F. We love because of a new capacity given us in Christ. (I John 4:19, John 15:15)
- G. *Agape* love in contrast to *phileo* love loves because it wants to, not because something is attractive.
- H. The proof that we are a part of the family of God is that we can love as Christ loved.

III. The discharge of love involves a new command.

- A. The new commandment is to love as Christ did. (John 13:34)
- B. This new command is based on a new capacity.
- C. The law of love is still law. (Romans 6, Matthew 5:48, Romans 8)
- D. How we are supposed to love: love your neighbor as yourself. (I Corinthians 13)
- E. We ought to love because it fulfills God's law and we love people right into the arms of Jesus.
- F. The only way we can show that we cherish God's love for us is by giving it.

Application questions:

1. How would you characterize God's love in comparison to the love of the world?

2. What does it mean that the love is a law?

3. How can you challenge yourself to exercise your love this week in a special way? Explain.
