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This weeks focus scripture: Romans 13:8-10

This weeks memory challenge:

Romans 13:9 The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 5:14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

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† Paying a debt
Romans 13:8a

† Our debt of love is never paid, but LOVE fulfills the LAW
Romans 13:8b

† What Paul isn't saying!
Jude 4

† What Paul IS saying!
Romans 13:9-10
Galatians 5:13-14

† Reality: The emphasis of the New Covenant is not the requirement of LAW, but the FRUIT of the SPIRIT.
Galatians 5:22-23

† In Christ, when we are living out of love, we will not harbor ANGER or RESENTMENT. We will choose to be UNOFFENDABLE.
Galatians 5:24-26

Day 1. Read the 10 commandments found in Deuteronomy chapter 5. Focus on the conclusion in verses 32-33. Based upon what you read here, what was the essence of living under the Old Covenant system of moral law?

Read Romans 13:8-10. What is the essential difference between the above and God's plan for how we live now, as disciples of Jesus?

Day 2. Read the first half of verse 8 in Romans 13. What is the significance of Paul comparing love to a debt?

Read the second half of verse 8. How does loving others fulfill the law? I know this is a big open ended question, but take time to think through this on a very personal and practical level. What does this look like in your life? Why (and how) is love our only hope for actually living out the essence of God's moral nature in daily life?

Read Romans 5:5. How is it possible for us to truly 'live by love' in the reality of daily life? What is our source, and how do we 'appropriate' this unending source of love? What does this look like in your life?

Day 3. Read verses 9-10. Consider the following questions:

- What is Paul not saying here? How are we tempted to take this teaching and distort it?

- Pastor Ethan gave the example that when we are living in love, we will give up our 'right' to be offended, to be angry about things. Do you agree with this? How does love fundamentally change the way we relate to people we naturally have trouble relating to?