

## Romans Lesson 10

**Reading: Romans 12:9 – 13:14**

**Memory Verse: Romans 13:8**

**Definitions:**

Zeal – eagerness, earnestness, speed

Repay – to give back, deliver, restore, reward, get even

Fervor – great enthusiasm for what is good, boiling with heat, hot

**After reading the lesson, answer the questions using the following link:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOX3wQBFYaKCLOX2t-n5sJaSUPqF4Py-oYbNQjQWnokKLIwA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOX3wQBFYaKCLOX2t-n5sJaSUPqF4Py-oYbNQjQWnokKLIwA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### Love Talk (12:9-21)

Paul begins chapter 12 by describing the gifts God gives us. Then in verse 9, he begins a list of qualities that all Christians should possess. He starts by telling the Romans (and us) that love must be sincere. Sincere means “without hypocrisy.” The word “hypocrite” was originally used to describe an actor on stage or an impersonator. Our love should be genuine, not something we fake just to fool the people around us.

Paul continues the discussion by listing ways we can tell that our love for others is not hypocritical.

We are supposed to stay away from things that are evil. We are not to cling to that which is good. “Cling” means to stick to, to glue or cement.

And the list continues. We are to be:

- Kind
- Not lazy at our jobs
- Enthusiastic for serving the Lord
- Patient even during tough times
- Recognizing we can talk pray to the Lord at all times

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- Hospitable
- Humble
- Not looking for ways to get even

And those are only some of the qualities Paul lists! He is thorough in describing our relationships.

### **Government Talk (13:1-7)**

Paul then switches to our attitude toward our government. Our citizenship is in heaven, but for now, we are also citizens on earth. God instructs us to obey the laws of our country. The purpose of a government is to create and enforce laws that restrain evil and promote individual freedom. We would probably all agree that some laws are bad. This is when it becomes difficult to respect authority. But, as Christians, we understand that we are to obey the Lord, and the Lord says we are to obey our government.

Christians should be the best citizens because we understand the need for law and order. We understand that we are to respect those who have the authority over us. Our objective should be order, not disorder.

### **Neighbor Talk (13:8-10)**

Paul now switches to “neighbor” talk. Christians are not to show their neighbors anything but love. Do not be indebted to those around you. “Indebtedness” means more than money or possessions. Are your friends constantly doing things for you because you are too lazy to do them on your own? Do they often go out of their way to help you, but you never have time to do something for them in return? Now wait a minute! This does not mean that every time someone does you a favor, you have to feel guilty until you can do one in return. But it does mean we should be givers as well as receivers.

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Paul repeats a few of the Ten Commandments to back up his point. “*Do not commit adultery,*” “*do not murder,*” “*do not steal,*” “*do not covet,*” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: *love your neighbor as yourself*” (13:9). You do not kill someone (whether it be physically or verbally) in love. If you love someone, you do not treat him or her dishonestly. Paul concludes by saying that if God’s love is a priority in our lives, then doing good will come naturally. No longer do we do good because of the Mosaic law, but rather because of our love for Christ.

2000 years ago, Paul urged the Romans to “wake up” because *the night is nearly over*. If that statement was vital for the Romans, think how much more vital it is for us to “wake up” and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. We do not know when the Lord Jesus Christ will return, but we do know that his return is a lot closer than it was in Paul’s day. We need to walk honestly. We need to reflect our relationship with Christ in the way that we live!

### Fast Fact

Romans is not a hypothetical book. Remember, Paul was writing to real people who faced real problems. The Jewish people of his day did not want to bow before the Roman government. In their pride, the Pharisees score in the government because they wanted the government to return to the nation of Israel. That is why they asked Christ, “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?”

They were hoping his answer would be “no.” But instead, Christ answered that they were to give to Cesar what was due him (Luke 20:21-26).

People still have problems with the concept of paying taxes to the government, especially when the government is doing things that are wrong. Yet, in Paul’s day, men such as Nero, Pilate, and Herod were in charge. They were more tyrannical than any government official in our own country. Still, the Lord said the government should be

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obeyed. The only exception would be a civil law that goes against God. *We must obey God rather than man (Acts 5:29).*

We need to remember that Paul did not write his letter during a time of perfect government, yet he still wrote, “obey the laws.” Our government is not perfect either, but we also need to obey the laws.