

We serve Christ for the same reason. We show our love to Christ by service to Him and to one another.

- b. "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets. I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." This He perfectly did by His life and by His death. Everyone who is "in Christ" shares in His perfect righteousness and is delivered from the bondage of the Law.

Here Paul explains how the moral law can be voluntarily kept by every Christian. It is by love -- love toward God and love toward our fellow man. This is not simply a New Testament principle, for here Paul quotes from Leviticus 19:18. It was recognized from the start that the Law must be fulfilled by the exercise of love. The Pharisees had completely forgotten this important teaching. Jesus reminded them of it in Luke 10:25-37 when He gave the parable of the Good Samaritan. The following diagram shows how the ten commandments are fulfilled by the exercise of love.

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| | 1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. | |
| | 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. | |
| LOVE TO GOD | 3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. | |
| | 4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. | Matthew 22:37-40 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commands hang all the law and the prophets." |
| | 5. Honour thy father and thy mother. | |
| | 6. Thou shalt not kill (murder). | |
| LOVE TO MEN | 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery. | |
| | 8. Thou shalt not steal. | |
| | 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness. | |
| | 10. Thou shalt not covet. | |

3. The Law of Christ not the Law of the Jungle (verse 15)

- a. "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."

This figure of speech picturing beasts snapping and clawing one another, the loser finally being eaten, is clearly taken from the animal world. This is the opposite of serving one another by love. The kind of legalism which was being introduced to the Galatian Christians, if accepted, would produce a church full of self-centered individuals. Perhaps it was already producing this result. Self-centeredness always produces friction in human relationships. Unhappiness in marriage is usually due to selfishness on the part of one or both partners. Even major wars are an expression of self-centeredness. Such things are expected in the world, but when they invade the Church the shame comes to the Christian community. (See James 4:1-4) There is only one cure for self-centeredness and that is the Law of Christ and the law of Christ's love. Without this love in our hearts and its exercise in our lives we are like those whom Jude called "brute beasts" in Jude 10.

Conclusion

There is no substitute for Christian love. Love fulfills the Law and love enables Christians to live together in happiness and harmony.