

Topic: The things we owe one another.

Text : [Romans 13:8-10](#)

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Introduction:

As humans, we are free moral agents. The bible said God created human in his own image and he has given us the choice to make decisions of our own. Either to be good, or bad? Too be wicked or to be kind? To love or to hate? To sin or not to sin

Just as he has given us the free agent ability, he has also given us the bible to guide us in making choices. The bible has instructed us on the outcome of what soever choice we make. Be it evil or good.

Let's see some of those examples from the bible:

*But the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you may obey it. 15 **see, I have set before you today life and goodness, as well as death and disaster.** 16For I am commanding you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, statutes, and ordinances, so that you may live and increase, and the LORD your God may bless you in the land that you are entering to possess*
Deuteronomy 30:14

1. Comment

Verses 15-20. - Moses concludes by solemnly adjuring the people, as he had set before them, in his proclamation of the Law and in his preaching, good and evil, life and death, to choose the former and eschew the latter, to love and serve the Lord which is life, and to shun apostasy and disobedience which are death

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, **that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***
John 3: 16

2. Comment

Here once more the emphasis is who soever believes - ability to make your choice

The motivation

More recently, social media influential people like celebrities, influencers, pastors and much more have coined some terms to make people feel good at even when they are doing the wrong

This is done by transformation of some terms :

Cruise and Vibes: several forms of evil in the form of ridicule and ungodly jokes

Hook-up: fornication at varying levels

Self-love: Damning what people think and make urself happy

Wokeness: stubbornness

Highness: giving to drunkenness and substances abuse (drugs, smoking etc)

Workham: to give bribe so as to make things go faster in our way.

We coin these terms so that we won't feel bad about ourselves

All of this stems from one thing - The idea that we are free to do what we want as far as it makes us happy and also that we owe no one anything in whatsoever thing we do. .

"I owe nobody this, i owe nobody that!!" That's how we got to this level of Irresponsibility, broken relationships, and reckless society.

My Claim

"Don't let anybody lie to you, we owe one another patience, empathy, kindness and good character"

The Proof of my claim (Our Text)

1. [Romans 13:8-10](#)

8 *Owe no man anything, but to love one another, for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*

9 *For this, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," "Thou shalt not kill," "Thou shalt not steal," "Thou shalt not bear false witness," "Thou shalt not covet," and if there be any other*

commandment, all are briefly comprehended in this saying, namely: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

10 *Love worketh no ill to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

Comments on above text:

Here we see that love is the fulfillment of the law. The law Paul is talking about in these verses is the Law of Moses, which was given by God to Israel ([Exodus 20–40](#); [Leviticus 1–7](#); [23](#)). The law included the [Ten Commandments](#) and all the moral, ceremonial, and civil regulations that governed the life of the people of Israel in their covenant relationship with God. Paul indicates that the entire law can be summed up in one operative word—love. Believers can fulfill every demand of the Mosaic Law by loving others. As Christians we are no longer bounded by this law but we have fulfilled the law when we realize that we owe another love.

Things we have established so far:

1. We have established that we owe another love
2. We have established that when we love we've also fulfilled the law of Moses.

2. I Cor 13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres

Comments:

So now we have established another fact.

1. Love is patient, kindness etc

So with these two establishments my initial claim of "*we owe one another patience, empathy, kindness, good character*" is valid.

What we owe one another:

We Owe one another patience

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:1-2

Patience can either be with God or with human. Our context here is in regards to humans. Are you patient with your fellow brother, sister, spouse, colleague. Patience is saying wait for someone else to go before you or wait for someone else to grow to your own level of understanding.

May I also state that patience is not weakness : There are times you exercise constraints just because you don't have understanding of what the other person is going through and they are also time you where you can clearly read and see that this person is using your patience for his/her selfish gain or against you. We need to know when to react.

But if you are in doubt of what to do, my advice is for us to stay calm.

We Owe one another empathy (not self-seeking)

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Philippians 2:3-5

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. As a christain do you share in the feeling of your fellow christain. Do you think of what would be the result of this my action to this fellow brother? Would it be because of me that this brother would sin or stumble? Empathy is putting yourself in other people's position.

When Someone is posting on social media, that they should only do what makes them happy. Then at this point it is very questionable.

If what makes me happy is pocketing (stealing) the money meant for community should I continue doing that ?

We Owe one another kindness

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:31-32.

Kindness is you realising that where you are is not by your power and not feeling that other people haven't done much work as you have done to get there.

Are you kind to your family most especially your parents.

Are you kind to people that work with you?

We Owe one another good character (*Love does not delight in evil*)

If you think whether you do evil or not it doesn't affect your brother or a sister then please do away with such mindset. As we have seen from the definition of love from the bible then we should know that we owe one another good character.

A person's character is the sum of his or her disposition, thoughts, intentions, desires, and actions. It is good to remember that character is gauged by general tendencies, not on the basis of a few isolated actions We must look at the whole life. For example, King David was a man of good character ([1 Samuel 13:14](#)) although he sinned on occasion ([2 Samuel 11](#)). And although King Ahab may have acted nobly once ([1 Kings 22:35](#)), he was still a man of overall bad character ([1 Kings 16:33](#)). Several people in the Bible are described as having noble character: Ruth ([Ruth 3:11](#)), Hanani ([Nehemiah 7:2](#)), David ([Psalm 78:72](#)), and Job ([Job 2:3](#)). These individuals' lives were distinguished by persistent moral virtue.

Character is influenced and developed by our choices. Daniel “resolved not to defile himself” in Babylon ([Daniel 1:8](#)), and that godly choice was an important step in formulating an unassailable integrity in the young man’s life. Character, in turn, influences our choices. “The integrity of the upright guides them” ([Proverbs 11:3a](#)). Character will help us weather the storms of life and keep us from sin ([Proverbs 10:9a](#)).

We can develop character by controlling our thoughts ([Philippians 4:8](#)), practicing Christian virtues ([2 Peter 1:5-6](#)), guarding our hearts ([Proverbs 4:23](#); [Matthew 15:18-20](#)), and keeping good company ([1 Corinthians 15:33](#)).

Our society is the sum total of human characters.

In a society where 80% of the sum character is bad than we can be guaranteed of a reckless society. The leader we have today is reflection of the characters in our society. This would lead me to ask us a question?

Do we have control over our society/country? Yes we do!

1. We have control over our society first by being of good character.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

([Matt. 5:14–16](#).)

2. By doing our civic responsibility, Of which one of such is voting. Do we have our voters card? Are we unconcern about participating in this process? This are question that begs our character

Conclusion

*You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; **3** clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.*

[2 Corinthians 3:2-3](#)

As we conclude I want us all to bear this in our mind. We owe ourselves **PECK** (patient, empathy, character and kindness).

May God help us to internalize this message and think of this always.

God bless you.