

INSIGHTS ON ROMANS: THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSTITUTION

LEGAL TENDER AND LOVING CARE

ROMANS 13:8–10



The Heart of the Matter

This grand letter to the Romans spans the extremes—from the theological heavens (Romans 1–11) to the earthly practicalities (Romans 12–16). In the last five chapters, we find some of the most helpful teaching in the Bible on how to model a way of life that is genuinely Christian. We are helped, for example, in knowing how to have a healthy, realistic view of ourselves (12:1–3), how best to serve others (12:4–8), how to exemplify Christlikeness (12:9–13), how to deal with our enemies (12:14–21), and how to be good citizens (13:1–7). We continue along these practical lines by learning how to handle debt (13:8) as well as how to truly love our neighbor (13:9–10).



Discovering the Way

1. The Context

The context generally is how to live the Christian life (Romans 12:9–21) and specifically how to be a good citizen (13:1–7).

2. The Issues and Meaning (Romans 13:8–10)

Regarding loans, we owe nothing to anyone; regarding love, we owe that to everyone; and regarding law, we owe obedience to fulfill it through loving our neighbor.

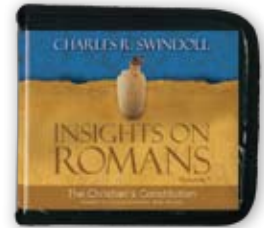


Starting Your Journey

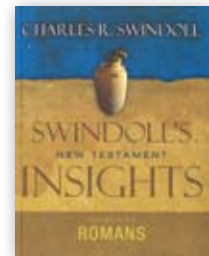
The relevance of all this is twofold. First, we owe only one continuing debt, which honors the Lord: love for one another. Second, there is only one penetrating truth that will fulfill the law: love for your neighbor.



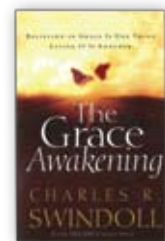
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