

Love – The Fulfilling of the Law
Romans 13:8-10

- A Only owe Love one to another, he that loveth another hath fulfilled the Law
 - B Thou shalt not commit adultery
 - C Thou shalt not kill (murder)
 - D Thou shalt not steal
 - D Thou shalt not bear false witness
 - C' Thou shalt not covet
 - B' or if any other commandment
- A' Love worketh no ill to his neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the Law

Here we see the apostle elaborate on what it means to 'own no man any thing but to love one another.' (Romans 13:8). He then lists nearly all the second table of the law, which coincides with the second great commandment, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself' (Matthew 22:39). The bottom A statement, or bookend is what Rom 13:10 states, 'Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.' In other words, it brings the law to its full—love. This is what it means to 'love thy neighbor as thyself.'

The internal B-D Statements are in actually all related, but Paul skips the 5th commandment (the first commandment with promise, (Eph 6:2) and begins with the "Thou shalt not..." The D Statements are go hand and hand. Typically, a thief works in darkness to deceive when he steals what doesn't belong to him. Though this is not always true, it is generally true. But before he steals or bears false witness, he must first covet (which involves premeditation). Carried to its full extent this leads to murder, the mirror image of the C Statements. Thus, as the apostle James states, whosoever "shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (James 2:10). You break one, you break all.

Therefore, the words of the Lawgiver are true, "On these two commandments (Love to God first, and then love to your fellow man) hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:40). This simple, but clear chiasm reveals this reality the apostle John has stated, "for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" (1 John 4:20). If we love God supremely, with heart mind and soul, we will love our neighbor as ourselves. Does this apply to your life?