

17 February 2019

## Love the brethren – Pt 1 in deed and truth – fulfils the law

We concluded our previous topic with an encouragement to (1) beware of covetousness, (2) think nothing of yourselves but take heed lest ye fall, and (3) take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. Today we begin a new topic that will cover brotherly love – (1) Fulfilment of the law is not circumcision or uncircumcision, (2) the righteousness of the law is filled in us who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit, (3) Fulfilment of the royal law is to love our neighbour as ourselves, and (4) fulfilment of the law is to love one another.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. Fulfilment of the law is not circumcision or uncircumcision.

“And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?” (Rom.2: 27).

### 2. The righteousness of the law is fulfilled in those who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit.

“That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Rom.8: 4).

### 3. Fulfilment of the royal law is – love our neighbour as ourselves.

“If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well” (Jam.2: 8).

### 4. Fulfilment of the law is – love one another.

Rom 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

See also Rom 13:8 & 10, Gal 5:14

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

I remember my early adult years when I was yachting and my buddy named our yacht “Agape” – one of the three Greek words that is translated “love”, and more particularly the love one has for their brethren. After our time of yachting we went our separate ways and later in life he was baptized into the Roman Catholic institution because he was disillusioned with the lack of love in the Presbyterian church and was wooed by the apparent love of the Pope.

Question to think about.

Many main-stream churches make loving others their focus often at the expense of truth. How does a believer know when love that is being spoken of is in “fulfilment of the law”, or lies?

Our answer from the scriptures.

Words of love that are “in fulfilment of the law” are those supported by action and spoken in truth – “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (1Jn 3:18).

Such love only comes from within the body of Christ, because it is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5; 22).

Such love in deed and truth (not the work of the ministry) fulfils the law.

Such love in deed and truth (not the gift of prophecy, or having knowledge, or faith that moves mountains, or giving all our money to the poor) fulfils the royal law.

Such love cannot be conveyed by an antichrist who lies, and in whom there is no truth, whose words are like those of backsliding Israel who – “draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men” (Is.29: 13).

And finally such brotherly love cannot be conveyed when we walk after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Let us convey love to our brethren in deed and truth, when we do so we fulfil the law.