

Friday, Sept. 5, 2008

Romans 13:8-10*

It just sounds so simple. “Love your neighbor as yourself.” And, “love does no wrong to a neighbor.” That should be all we need to practice God’s love to all people. But is it in the application of this idea that we find it is not so simple after all.

Like the lawyer with Jesus, we often start by asking, “Who is my neighbor?” Which we know is an attempt to get out of loving certain people.

Then there’s the question of what does love mean. If it means we simply do no wrong to a neighbor, even that can get complicated. Usually we think that means taking a hands-off approach so we do no harm. Such thinking rarely realizes that buying products made in sweat shops or with slave labor is very much doing wrong to a neighbor.

And as far as actively loving your neighbor, you could spend months pondering the question and never exhaust the possible answers. Does love mean sending your neighbor a birthday card, taking him to the doctor, or helping her paint her house? It means all of that and more.

The command is simple; the application is not. But if we want to be like Christ we better start figuring out some answers.