

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Love keeps no record of wrong. Love owes no one. Love does not incur debt. Love does not track debt. Love forgives. Love is selfless. The one who truly loves another has fulfilled the law.

The fallen flesh hears the Word of God and desires to pervert it. The old man in you desires to formulate from these Words an equation that allows you to save yourself. Your sinful flesh calculates: If love is the fulfillment of the Law, and if fulfilling the Law justifies, then all I have to do to save myself is to love others. True enough.

But the love that fulfills the Law is perfect love. No fallen flesh has the capacity to love perfectly. For even the best, most noble, most righteous acts of the fallen flesh are stained by sin.

It is easy enough to love your neighbor when he is wealthy, when he lives in a nice house, when his family is well behaved, when he treats you with respect, when he gives you gifts, and when he seeks nothing from you. It is easy enough to show love to your neighbor when you like him.

But fallen love is conditional love. It is imperfect. It fails when your neighbor sins against you. It fails when his house deteriorates, when his family misbehaves, when he treats you wrongly, when he is in need. Imperfect love quickly tires of even lending to your neighbor. Conditional love isn't present when you don't like your neighbor, your coworker, your relative. Imperfect love quickly tires of supplying even a

family member with the things he needs without thought of repayment.

That's when anger and hate, gossip and slander, pride and jealousy rush in to push love out. Fallen love fails when your neighbor lies in a ditch, covered with sores, dirty, hungry, with no way to repay you. That's when your fallen flesh has asked "who then is my neighbor?"

Sinful flesh seeks a loophole. Imperfect love keeps track of debt. Imperfect love cannot fulfill the Law. The calculations of your fallen flesh have come up short. The math doesn't work, the formula fails. Repent. As the Apostle writes, make no provision for the fallen flesh.

Your faltering love, your imperfect love, has not stopped God from loving you perfectly. For God's Love is not like the love of fallen men. God loves unconditionally. He loves you when you have nothing to offer Him. He loves you when you are unlovable. He loves you when your sin has separated you from Him.

His Love is more than just an ethereal concept. Love took on your flesh. Love was born of the Virgin. Perfect Love has spike pierced hands and a thorn-pierced brow. Perfect Love kept the Law perfectly – never seeking a loophole – and then suffered the unmitigated wrath of God as if He had been the greatest lawbreaker and most flagrant sinner. Love Himself suffered for you. Owing nothing, He assumed your debt, and died as the greatest of debtors.

Greater love has no man than this – than to lay down His life for his friends. For precisely when you were unlovable, Jesus

Christ died for you. His Love is perfect. His Love keeps no record of wrongs. Love fulfills the Law, for against Love there is no Law. Your sins, even your sin of loving imperfectly, are completely removed in Christ.

And more, perfect Love is freely given to you. His keeping of the Law is yours. His death is yours. His resurrection is yours. His righteousness is yours – all out of perfect Love. Love Himself paid your debt. Love fulfills the Law for you.

Perfect Love is proven in boundless giving. He gives you new life. He gives you His Spirit. He gives you of Himself, His Body and Blood, in the Holy Eucharist. He continues to forgive your sins each day, for His mercy is new every morning.

Love keeps no record of wrong. Love owes no one. Love does not incur debt. Love does not track debt. Love forgives. Love is selfless. The one who truly loves another has fulfilled the law. Christ fulfills the Law for you. Love came in the Flesh. He loves you now. Soon He comes to take you home. He is the Lord your Righteousness.

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