

Lent Day 31

Wednesday April 5, 2017

Reading: Romans 13:8-10

8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Reflection

If you were to look up the 'me generation' surprisingly, it is about the baby boomers — my parent's generation — being characterized by their own wants. I say surprisingly because I thought it was my generation — generation X — that the term was coined for. What you'll also see if you did a google search is that the Millennials are called the 'me me me generation'. I guess the implication is that boomers have one 'me', gen x two 'me's' and millennials three 'me's'. The focus on self seems to be intensifying.

Of course, this isn't a new problem. Paul is drawing on the teaching of Jesus to talk about how the Christian community should live — they should love one another which in turn fulfills the law. Jesus said much the same. Of course, both Jesus and Paul are quoting the Hebrew Scriptures themselves, which means this call for the people of God to love others is thousands of years old and spans ethnicity and geography. In short, the boomers aren't the first 'me' generation.

This impacts our lenten journey as well doesn't it? We focus on 'me'. What have I done? What do I need to confess? God, help me! Yet, everywhere in Scripture God is focused on his people — the community of faith. Which means an important aspect of our examination is around our relationships in community. Have I loved people of the community like I am paying back a debt that I owe? Is the community being build up by me? Do I have work to do; confessing, repenting, or reconciling? There is not 'me' generation in the kingdom of God.

Prayer

God, you have welcomed us and thought of us not just yourself. We see this most clearly in the cross of Christ who died and was raised for our sake. Help us to think beyond ourselves and to love each other like we are paying off that debt. Amen.