

Key Verses

Matthew 6:12; 22:21,
Romans 13:7-8
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; 7:3-4,
John 21:18-22

Big Idea

Debts must be Paid.

Discussion Questions

- 1) How do you understand the idea of 'Praying it forward?' How does prayer shape behavior that shapes the future?
- 2) Read Matthew 6:12 and Romans 13:8. What parallels exist between the debt mentioned in the Lord's prayer and those discussed in Romans 13:7-8?
- 3) What does it mean to "pay your debts" in the context of loving one another as Christians?
- 4) The theme in Matthew 6:12 and Romans 13:7-8 is paying your debts not collecting your debts. Has anything made it difficult for you to focus on paying your debt (rather than collecting debt)? As you consider this, think of your childhood, a significant relationship, or a painful experience. What lessons have you learned that helps you focus on your responsibility rather than the responsibility of others toward you?
- 5) The idea of responding to wrong with right is a matter of identity for the Christian. How difficult for you is it to forsake the 'Robin Hood' example of the increase of injustice when you are wronged? What role do emotions play in responding to wrong with wrong?
- 6) How does Jesus's response to Peter's question in John 21:18-22 reinforce the idea of personal accountability in fulfilling one's obligations, particularly in the context of owing love to others?
- 7) Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. What implications does the understanding of being "bought with a price" have for believers' behavior and attitudes towards their bodies and relationships with others?
- 8) With 1 Corinthians 6 in mind consider how the distinction between a sacred spirit and soul on the one side and a carnal, lost body on the other side is not a Christian one. In what ways are we tempted to think of the body as evil and the spirit good?
- 9) 1 Corinthians 6:20 reminds us that we were bought with a price. Before we were saved, we did not owe actions, we owed God righteousness. But instead of righteousness all we could present was sin. But Jesus died for us. Christ purchased us because our debt must be paid. What reactions do these thoughts trigger in you?

Notes
