

EXCELLING IN OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

Lesson #1 - The Practice of Genuine Love Within the Church (Romans 12: 9-13)

INTRODUCTION: Genuine love flows out of a SURRENDERED life to God (Romans 12: 1) as God TRANSFORMS my mind to think as He thinks (Romans 12: 2), which results in INVESTING my life to build up the church family (Romans 12: 3-8) through SACRIFICIAL involvement in the lives of others (Romans 12: 9-13).

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12: 1-2

IMPORTANT POINT TO REMEMBER: Although the focus in Romans 12: 9-13 is love within the church, this also has application to reaching the lost outside the church. The credibility of the gospel & the success of our evangelistic endeavors will rise or fall on how we relate to one another within the family of God. A church united by the LOVE of Christ is the only thing that will convince a lost world of the CLAIMS of Christ.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35

By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious; any one who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 1 John 3: 10-11

I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me. John 17: 23

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GENUINE LOVE

1. Love is SINCERE, free of all hypocrisy.

Let love be without hypocrisy.

Romans 12: 9a

2. Love rejects SIN, but receives the SINNER.

Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

Romans 12: 9b

3. Love's devotion & affection to others is based on the fact we are FAMILY.

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love;

Romans 12: 10a

4. Love puts others FIRST.

give preference to one another in honor;

Romans 12: 10b

5. Love remains ENTHUSIASTIC despite SETBACKS.

not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

Romans 12: 11

6. Love REJOICES in hope by being PATIENT in affliction and FAITHFUL in prayer.

rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

Romans 12: 12

7. Love meets needs in a PERSONAL way; especially by practicing hospitality.

contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. Rom. 12: 13

HINDRANCES TO PRACTICING LOVE

- FEAR OF REJECTION
- PASSIVITY
- PREOCCUPATION

PRACTICING LOVE

- This week I will practice love toward NAME OF PERSON by HOW I WILL DEMONSTRATE MY LOVE.