

Genuine Christian Love Romans 12:9–13

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

We live in a world that needs so desperately what Christian love is about.

Christian love, real Christian love is not like the love that the world talks about.

Christian love, the love of the Bible is God's love.

Paul, after speaking of the gifts of the Spirit goes the God's greatest gift.

He did the same thing in 1 Corinthians 13, after speaking of Spiritual gifts says, "I show you a more excellent way" which was the way of love.

This morning we begin this section of Romans on the subject of Christian love.

One of the greatest sections of this book.

I. Let love be without hypocrisy

A. The word for love here is *agapê*

1. there are four Greek words that may be translated love: *storgê*, which refers to family affection; *philia*, which denotes love between friends; *eros*, which is sexual love; and *agapê*, which is God-love and is therefore pure, holy, unvarying, and unfeigned. *James Montgomery Boice, Romans: The New Humanity, vol. 4 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991–), 1592.*
2. It may help us to realize that the love that is commended here is the love of God that is shown to fallen creatures through the death of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and which is developed in Christians by the Holy Spirit. *James Montgomery Boice, Romans: The New Humanity, vol. 4 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991–), 1592.*

B. Jesus put this type of love in perspective.

1. Mark 12: 28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" 29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. 30 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your

strength.’ This is the first commandment. 31 “And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

- a. These are the fulfilment of the whole law.
 - b. Do not kill.
 - c. Do not commit adultery.
 - d. Honor your father and mother.
 - e. Do not lie about your neighbor.
 - f. Do not covet anything that is your neighbor’s.
 - g. Do not have any gods before the Lord.
 - h. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
 - i. All of these is covered in love.
2. Matthew 6:24 (NKJV) 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
- a. That is our dilemma, how to love God and yet live in the world.
 - b. How to get money and yet not give it the place that God should have in our lives.
 - c. All around us that is what we see. People pursuing money as though it was the end goal until it possesses us and not we it.
3. Luke 17:7- 10 (NKJV) 7 “And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down to eat’? 8 “But will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink’? 9 “Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. 10 “So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’ ”
- a. That is our problem with God in that He demands total full dedication.
 - b. But God does love us but His love for us does not lessen His demands upon us.
 - c. God chose Abraham because God loved him but notice what God told him. Genesis 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old,

the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

4. Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
 - a. God’s promise to us is that if we will put Him first that God will take care of the rest.
 - b. But that is what love is, when we abandon all others for Him alone.

C. But it was Paul that pinned love down for us in 1 Corinthians 13

1. Love Suffers Long and Is Kind;
2. Love Does Not Envy;
3. Love Does Not Parade Itself,
4. Is Not Puffed Up;
5. Does Not Behave Rudely,
6. Does Not Seek its Own,
7. Is Not Provoked,
8. Thinks No Evil;
9. Does Not Rejoice in Iniquity,
10. But Rejoices in the Truth;
11. Bears All Things,
12. Believes All Things,
13. Hopes All Things,
14. Endures All Things.
15. Love Never Fails.
16. The Greatest Spiritual Gift Is Love.

D. 1 John 4:8 (NKJV) He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

E. In ancient times the pagans marveled at such love. “Behold how these Christians love one another!” they cried. *James Montgomery Boice, Romans: The New Humanity, vol. 4 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991–), 1596.*

F. Without hypocrisy

1. Sincere, not pretend or make believe.
2. Not play acting.

3. In the ancient theater the actors would hold up masks to display the part they were playing. The idea here is without masks.

II. Abhor what is evil.

A. Most of what follows are participles that have the force of an imperative.

1. There are no finite verbs in the paragraph. There are, however, ten participles that serve as imperatives. In the three other clauses (vv. 9, 10, 11) an imperative must be supplied. *Robert H. Mounce, Romans, vol. 27, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 236.*

B. True love hates evil

1. Proverbs 6:16–19 (NKJV) 16 These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.
2. Pure love cannot love what is evil.
3. Real love cannot love what is wrong.

III. Cling to what is good.

A. The word means to glue one's self to another.

B. Cling to what is good.

1. We are often faced with decisions between what is good and what is acceptable.
- 2.