

Romans 12:9-21 *“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. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

Note 12:9: *“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”*

Early Christians were known as people of **“The Way”** (**Acts 9:2**). Jesus said, *“narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”* (**Matt.7:14**). New Christians were taken aside and fully instructed in the **way** of the Lord (**Acts 18:25-26**). Our text, Romans 12:9-21, gives a great description of **“the way,”** and verse 9 gives the guiding star to which we must set our compass in all motive, thought and actions. The **way** followed by Christians is a narrow and difficult road – a supernatural road, in fact. It is the **way** of love. This agape love is the overall principle from which all of verses 9-21 flow. Verses 9-21 are an excellent summary of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. Don’t let anyone tell you that the Sermon on the Mount is not applicable to our times (dispensation), for Paul is instructing us to follow in the **way** Jesus described in His mountainous sermon.

Paul tells us 4 things about this love. (I) It’s a love that shows Jesus with clarity. (II) It’s a love that serves with sincerity, (III) It’s a love that shuns evil with abhorrence, and (IV) It’s a love that sticks to good with tenacity. As Christians, we are commanded to love our God and our neighbor with a love that shows Jesus, serves sincerely, shuns evil and sticks to good.

I. IT’S A LOVE THAT SHOWS JESUS WITH CLARITY: *“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”* “In all, there are four Greek words that may be translated love: storge, which refers to family affection; philia, which denotes love between friends; eros, which is sexual love; and agape, which is God-love and is therefore pure, holy, unvarying, and unfeigned.” Paul uses the word, agape, in our text.

1 John 4:7-10 *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* Those who have the love of God shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Spirit show this love. Those who know the love God experientially show this love in gratitude supernaturally as the life of the creator of the universe lives through them.

II. IT’S A LOVE THAT SERVES WITH SINCERITY *“Let love be without hypocrisy.”* The Greek word is **“anupokritos”**, *“the latter part of which has given us the word hypocritical. Anupokritos means without a mask, and it refers to the way in which, in the Greek theater, actors would carry tragic, comic, or melodramatic masks to signal the role they were playing (Boice). Sincerity(from Latin word meaning = without wax – pottery was waxed to hide cracks and get a better price. Thus, potter is “without wax”*

A. 3 negative regarding this genuine love: (1) It is more than being polite, congenial and courteous. (2) It is not a sentimental, gushy, love that is merely based on emotion. It is more than the

love we feel when singing praises to God. (3) It is never to be contrasted with keeping God's law. Joseph Fletcher's Situation Ethics (The New Morality) which was really just the Devil's old immorality taught that we should do the most loving thing even if its adultery, murder, theft, lying – as long as we judge it to be a loving act. Joseph Fletcher was just expressing Satan's lies for God's supernatural love is a fulfillment of the law. Loving God with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength and loving our neighbor as our self is a summary of God's law. God's law is an expression of His nature and His nature is love.

B. What then is it to love without hypocrisy? Jesus said, *"If ye love me, keep my commandments... He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him..."* *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words;"* (John 14:15,21,23-24a).

C. How do we go about obeying this command to let love be without hypocrisy? We do it in the context of **Romans 12:1-2** *"By the mercies of God..."* We also live out this supernatural love by obeying Jesus: **1 John 2:5** *"But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him."* How did Peter walk on water? He jumped out of the boat, putting his eyes on Jesus and put one step in front of the other. How do we love without hypocrisy? We do it by stepping out in obedient gratitude to do all that is commanded of us in **Romans 12:9-21**.

III. IT'S A LOVE THAT SHUN'S EVIL WITH ABHORRENCE: *Abhor what is evil.* The Greek word Paul uses is *Apostugeo*, means to *"have a horror of, to dislike utterly. The Greek word the apostle uses has a prefix that means, 'a separation from', 'away from'. The word means, 'shrink from evil with abhorrence'* (Lloyd-Jones).

A. The opposite of love is to hate, but true love discriminates – true love hates.

B. True love hates evil: *"Now evil is not something abstract. It is active opposition to good...Evil is not just the absence of good...it hates the good and is militant against it. (Lloyd-Jones).*

"Ye that love the LORD, hate evil" (Psalm 97:10) "Hate the evil, and love the good"(Amos 5:15). "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it" (1 Peter 3:10-11). The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate. (Proverbs 8:13)

C. God is love, yet God hates. Proverbs 6:16-17 *"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."*

IV. IT'S A LOVE THAT STICKS TO GOOD WITH TENACITY: *Cling to what is good.* The Greek word used by Paul is *Kollao* = *"to glue, to glue together, to fasten firmly together."* A great description of good is in Romans 12: 9-21.

In summary, we are to: love with a love that...

Shows Jesus with Clarity

Serves with Sincerity

Shuns evil with abhorrence

Sticks to good with tenacity