

Genuine Love
Romans 12:9-13

Introduction

1. Is your love GENUINE? v. 9a
9a Let love be without hypocrisy.

- Trying to make our outsides look better than the insides. 1 Cor. 13:3, Matt. 15:7
- Trying to hide our own faults by drawing attention to others. Luke 6:42; Luke 13:14,15
- Trying to get approval of other people. Matt. 6:2, 5

Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:23,24

For he has made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 2 Cor. 5:21

2. Is your love PASSIONATE? v. 9b
9b Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Be angry but do not sin. Eph. 4:26

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. Isa. 1:17

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice. Prov. 31:8-9

3. Is your love DEVOTED? v. 10-12

10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:28

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. 1 Cor. 15:58

APPLICATION

Listen - Find someone who is different from you. Ask them how they are doing through all of these days we're living in. Really listen.

Learn from their experience. You don't have to agree with everything they say. Seek to understand.

Love - As best as you are able, find a way to tangibly express God's love for that person.

Discussion Questions

- Who is the most loving person you know? How do they express their love?
- Review the passages cited on the three aspects of hypocrisy. Can you give a personal example of one of these? (Either yourself or one you've seen.)
- "Hate what is evil; cling to what is good". What does this have to do with hypocrisy?
- Read 1 John 4:10,11. What do these verses say about the source and motivation for us to love each other?
- No one (except Jesus) loves perfectly. Which of these three qualities of love do you want to grow in?
- Who are some specific people you'd like to focus loving in a more Christ-like way? What is the first thing you will do to live out your love today?