

SERMON NOTES:

VOL 4: Part 26: Authentic Love: Living The Gospel

BIG Idea: Authentic love is the gospel lived out—sincere, truthful, devoted, patient, generous, and visible in action.

Application: Live out authentic love in your relationships by letting the Holy Spirit transform your sincerity, truth, devotion, patience, and generosity, so that Christ is seen through you.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2025.

<https://bit.ly/ReadwithMe25>

Romans 12:9-13 (NLT)

⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

I. TRUE LOVE – LOVE IN ACTION (v.9)

Romans 12:9a (NLT)

⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them.

Fake love fools no one for long.

Hypocrisy wears thin; sincerity wears deep.

Romans 12:9b (NLT)

⁹ ...Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

You can't love what's good if you won't hate what's evil.

Love without truth is sentimentality; truth without love is brutality. But love and truth together embody Christianity.

"God's law reveals the way in which our world and our souls were designed. To disobey God's law is always bad for the beloved. Therefore, real love is concerned about truth. Any love that is afraid to confront the beloved is not really love, but a selfish desire to be loved. This kind of selfish love is afraid to do what is right (toward God and the beloved) if it risks losing the beloved's affection. It makes an idol out of the beloved. It says: 'I'll do anything to keep him or her loving me! This is not loving the person. It is loving the love you get from the person. In other words, it is loving yourself more than the person. So any "love" that cuts corners morally, or fails to confront, is not really love at all. True love, on the other hand, is willing to confront, even to 'lose' the beloved in the short run if there is a chance of helping him or her." ~Tim Keller

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Jesus loved us at our worst so we could learn to love others at their worst.

The cross proves that authentic love doesn't wait for the other person to be lovable.

II. WHAT REAL LOVE LOOKS LIKE (vv.10-12)

Romans 12:10a (NLT)

¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection,

Family sticks. So should the church.

Devotion isn't optional—it's the family resemblance of God's children.

Romans 12:10b (NLT)

¹⁰ ...and take delight in honoring each other.

Philippians 2:3 (NIV)

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,

Honor is treating people as if they carry God's image—because they do.

When we lift others up, we never lose our place—we find it.

Romans 12:11 (NLT)

¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.

Romans 12:11 (NIV)

¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

A Spirit-fueled life won't run out of patience with God's people.

Romans 12:12a (NLT)

¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

Hope gives us joy, trouble teaches us patience, and prayer keeps us steady.

III. WHERE FEELING MEETS ACTION (v.13)

Romans 12:13 (NLT)

³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Hospitality is love with a front door wide open.

If love never costs us anything, it probably isn't love.