

**Teaching:** The sermon teaches that genuine love is the bedrock of discipleship, emphasizing the need for believers to engage in relationships that reflect Christ's love. By rejecting hypocrisy and behaving with sincerity, Christians can foster a community that not only loves but also serves effectively and hopes expectantly together.

**Summary:** In [Romans 12:9-12](#), the Apostle Paul outlines the necessary characteristics of a disciple's life, emphasizing that love must be sincere, rooting out hypocrisy and evil while embracing goodness. This passage also underscores the importance of unwavering commitment to serve God and others, framing this as central to faithful living. It speaks to the relational aspect of the Christian faith, suggesting that authentic living and active engagement with community are vital for true discipleship.

**Big Idea:** Discipleship thrives in the context of authentic love and commitment to others, compelling believers to be sincere in their relationships and fervent in their service to God and one another.

### 1. Pursue Genuine Love

#### [Romans 12:9](#)

Hypocrite- an actor, Roman culture theatrics

But the church must not turn itself into a stage. For love is not theatre; it belongs to the real world. John R. W. Stott

Abhor- ἀποστύγέω (apostygeō): hate, abhor, loathe

to find repugnant. - Avoid!

[Psalm 97:10](#) “10 Hate evil, you who love the Lord, Who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.”

[Ezekiel 20:43](#) “43 There you will remember your ways and all your deeds with which you have defiled yourselves; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for all the evil things that you have done.”

If there was any other way for our righteousness then Christ death is unfortunate

[Titus 3:5](#) “5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,”

Cling- κολλάομαι (kollaomai), cling to, stick to

cement; Gluing paper

[Matthew 19:5](#) “5 and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?”

Devoted-

φιλόστοργος (philostorgos), being very affectionate, devoted, loving dearly

Family- sense of unity-

Cost for Christianity- family will reject them- where do they go?

Brotherly love-

[1 Peter 1:22](#) “22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,”

Brotherly love was part of the original message which had come to them. John was not now inventing it. It was not an innovation such as the heretics claimed to teach. It was as old as the gospel itself.

**John Robert Walmsley Stott (English Preacher)**

give preference- προηγέομαι (proēgeomai): do with eagerness; for another do exceedingly, put above

[John 13:12-17](#) “12 So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

This is combatant to theatrical love... we are to get to know one another...

[1 Peter 4:8](#) “8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.”

Warning against laziness

[Galatians 6:9](#) “9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.”

Do not be lazy to do your best

[Proverbs 20:4](#) “4 The sluggard does not plow after the autumn, So he begs during the harvest and has nothing.”

Breaking of the insincere love

[Proverbs 14:23](#) “23 In all labor there is profit, But mere talk leads only to poverty.”

Fervent in Spirit serving the Lord - boiling with passion that is disciplined

[Psalm 119:145-147](#) “145 I cried with all my heart; answer me, O Lord! I will observe Your statutes. 146 I cried to You; save me And I shall keep Your testimonies. 147 I rise before dawn and cry for help; I wait for Your words.”

Rejoicing in hope

The promise of Righteousness

Persevering in tribulation

It will come to them

[Hebrews 10:36](#) “36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.”

Devoted in prayer

Faithful

Contributing to the needs of the saints

Participation

*We draw upon the church's strength when we ought to be contributing to it.*

**Charles Spurgeon**

## Closing

**Application:** This message provides practical steps for Christians to cultivate sincere relationships, reminding them that true love isn't just about feelings, but also actions and choices that reflect Christ's character. Would you consider being a small group leader?

In addressing the struggles of being genuine in a world of pretense, believers will find encouragement to embody love that actively supports and uplifts others, transforming their communities.

Would you consider developing authentic relationships here; would you be willing to be offended and not run; would you be willing to seek forgiveness

**How this passage points to Christ:** Throughout Scripture, Christ's life exemplifies perfect love—it's sincere, sacrificial, and transformative. His rejection of hypocrisy and his passionate service to others embody the qualities Paul describes, highlighting that true discipleship is a reflection of Christ lived out through believers in community.