

Christ Authenticates Love Romans 12:9-21

Intro:

Genuine love points us to genuine perseverance.

The world is constantly trying to answer the question: defining love. What is it? There are over 100 million love songs written over the course of history. Who has the genuine article?

Problem:

Romans 1:18-20 shows how twisted the world's view of love is, it is warped.

2 Timothy 3 points to how the world and even those calling themselves Christians will operate. How do we show love during hard times? How do we persevere? We look at the bookends of the passage and they are daunting.

Main Idea:

- **We must love like Christ (v.9-10)**

Jer. 9:23-24, Hosea, Romans 6:23, John 15:13, 2 Corinth 5:21, 1 Corinth. 14:4-7, Romans 6:1-2, Romans 12:1-2
We can only love like Christ because He first loved us.

- **We must bear with one another like Christ (v.11-18)**

1 Thess 5:16-18, James 1:2-4, John 17:14-19, Proverbs 25:21-22, 1 Corinth. 12:26, John 11 (just referenced), Proverbs 2:6, Lev. 19:17-18, Matt. 5:43-47
We can only bear with one another because He bore with us.

- **We must be patient in justice like Christ (19-20)**

Luke 4:1-13, Luke 23, Luke 19:10, Rev. 20
We can only be patient because He was patient

- **We must persevere like Christ (21)**

1 Peter 5:8-9, Ephesians 6, Hebrews 12, Rev. 21
We can only persevere because He persevered.

Implication:

We are commanded to obey, so there must be a way for us to follow this commandment.

Application:

We have to look to the finished work of Jesus to love well and to see the worth of finishing well.