

# SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

## *In The Grip of God's Grace*

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans

### **Romans 12:9-13 - "The Manifestation of Love"**

Romans 12:9-13, *"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."*

Other titles I could have given this message might have been: *Love in Action; Love Exposed; The Greatest Thing in the World; or A Recipe for Real Love.*

Ray Stedman called his message, "How to Hug" – the title was used because of a story he had once heard:

"A man was walking down the street, and as he passed a used book store he saw a book in the window with this title, "How to Hug." Being of a somewhat romantic nature, he went in to buy the book. To his chagrin, he discovered that it was a certain volume of an encyclopedia and covered the subjects "How" to "Hug."

I have often thought of the church as like that. Everyone knows that the church is a place where love ought to be manifested, and many people have come to church hoping to find a demonstration of love, only to discover an encyclopedia on theology."

How are we who have consecrated bodies and transformed minds to show or manifest genuine Christian love?

In the Church – vs. 9-13

In the World – vs. 14-21 (Next Study)

For our text today, I want to look at the manifestation of genuine Christian love in five categories:

#### I. Love's Quality (vs. 9a)

Romans 12:9a, *"Let love be without dissimulation..."*

What is the number one quality of real love?

Sincerity – No hypocrisy

William Barclay – “Your love must be completely sincere”

New Living Translation – “Don’t just pretend to love others, really love them.”

Sincere is from the Latin word, *sincerus*, meaning, without wax; un-hypocritical – without a mask.

**"Sincere"** (**anupokritos** from "a" = without + **hupokrinomai** = to pretend) means unfeigned, without pretense, that is that which is genuine, free from deceit, authentic, undisguised, without pretense or sham and to use the "king's old English" to be "without dissimulation" (KJV) (dissimulate = hide under a false appearance).

In classical Greek drama, the **hupokrites** (actor) wore a face-mask projecting an image but hiding his true identity under (**hupo**) a mask. Peter is saying that the Christian's love should not be acting a part or wearing a mask, but should be an authentic expression of goodwill (Rom 12:9). Believers are not simply "playing the part" but are to exemplify a love which is completely genuine, unhypocritical, without pretense or deceit. A believer's love is to be "the real thing".

No phony love; or sham love

Illustration The kiss of Judas

*Luke 22:47-48, "And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?"*

True Love comes from the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5) – it's the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22)

In the Greek, it's the word 'agapeo' – Agape is a word that simply means "the ultimate act of self- sacrifice." It is a word which refers to the ultimate act of sacrificing oneself for the good of someone else.

Other Greek words for Love:

Storge (στοργή *storgē*) means affection in modern Greek; it is natural affection, like that felt by parents for offspring.

Philia (φιλία *philia*), means friendship in modern Greek. It includes loyalty to friends, family, and community, and requires virtue, equality and familiarity.

Eros (ἔρως *érōs*) is passionate love, with sensual desire and longing. The Modern Greek word "*erotás*" means "(romantic) love". Never used in the New Testament

God's Love is sincere.

## II. Love's Morality (vs. 9b)

Romans 12:9b, "...*Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*"

What is the manifestation of love's morality?

Discernment – we are to hate what is evil, and cling to what is good.

It may surprise some that love and hate are found in the same verse. The two seem incompatible to most people. But they're not! Even God, who is Love, hates.

Seven things God hates:

*Proverbs 6:16-19, "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: (1) A proud look, (2) a lying tongue, and (3) hands that shed innocent blood, (4) An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, (5) feet that be swift in running to mischief, (6) A false witness that speaketh lies, and (7) he that soweth discord among brethren."*

This is true for too, Psalms 97:10, "*Ye that love the LORD, hate evil:*"

Love that is sincere is not a blind sentimental mush. But rather, discerning; so that it hates anything that is evil or detrimental to the object loved.

In the context here, it's people.

We need to hate the sin, love the sinner.

Illustration: Homosexuality

## III. Love's Commitment (vs. 10)

Romans 12:10, "*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*"

1. Affection (vs. 10a) - "*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;...*"

The New Living Translation - "*Love each other with genuine affection.*"

Paul uses two family words:

- i. '*kindly affectioned*' - we get our word 'kin', or 'family'
- ii. '*brotherly love*' - is Philadelphia

Be devoted with warm family affection to one another in brotherly love.

As children of God, we are to have affection for each other.

Why?

Because we are 'spiritual kin' (not a club, but a family)

2. Honour (vs. 10b) - "...in honour preferring one another;"

Literally – in respect to honor, lead the way for each other.

It means that I am willing to give recognition and honor to others – not seeking my own.

J.B. Phillips Translation – *"Be willing to let other men have the credit."*

Real love doesn't care who gets the credit.

It's a problem in the church today!

Illustrations:

Old Testament - Saul jealous of David (1 Samuel 18)

New Testament – Philippians 2:3-4, *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."*

#### IV. Love's Expression

Romans 12:11-12, *"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;"*

Notice the four ways love expresses itself:

1. In 'enthusiasm' (vs. 11)

Literally – *"In regard to what you ought to be doing, don't be lazy."*

- the business of being a Christian
- the business of being a parent
- Church business
- The business of earning a living

New Living Translation - *"Never be lazy but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically."*

King James Version – “...*fervent in spirit*;...” – it’s a picture of a boiling pot.

Be hot for the Lord – be on fire!

It’s not just unbridled enthusiasm, its serving the Lord.

Are you?

2. In Hope (vs. 12) – “*Rejoicing in hope*;...”

More than anything else this is what sets a Christian apart from the man of this world.

We have hope and, we rejoice in it.

It’s our anchor for the future; not just a vague and sentimental optimism, but a hope as bright as the promises of God.

What is our hope? (Blessed Hope)

What’s it based on? – Jesus blood and righteousness

3. Patience (endurance) (vs. 12) – “...*patient in tribulation*;...”

While rejoicing in our future hope we are also patient in affliction.

Love keeps us going – our love for God and God’s love for us.

4. Prayer (vs. 12) - “...; *continuing instant in prayer*;”

Literally – “*and in regard to prayer continuing.*”

Why does Paul tell us to continue in prayer?

Because our problem is we give up on prayer.

We get tired, and neglect prayer.

It’s what we need most.

Jesus teaching on prayer – Just do it!

*Illustration: Luke 11:9, “And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”*

Prayer helps us to be patient in trouble and rejoice in our hope.

Believers who genuinely love are devoted to prayer (for others)

## V. Love's Care (vs. 13)

*Romans 12:13, "Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."*

1. Generosity – "Distributing" (K.J.V.) – we get the word 'Koinonia' from this word.

Koinonia – 'to share with' – it can mean here, either to share in peoples needs and sufferings, or to share out our resources with them.

2. Hospitality – Literally – 'love strangers'

It was very important in their day, but also today.

Notice the word 'given', it means to pursue after.

In the Greek it can be rendered, *"In regard to the need of saints, participating, practicing hospitality."*

Not just money, open your heart, hand and home.

Review:

### The Manifestation of true Christian love:

1. Sincere
2. Discerning
3. Affectionate and respectful
4. Enthusiastic
5. Patient
6. Generous
7. Hospitable

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- In brotherly love – affectionate
  - In honor – preferring one another
  - In zeal – not lazy
  - In spirit – fervent, serving the Lord
  - In hope – rejoicing
  - In affliction – patient
  - In prayer – continuing instant
  - In the needs of the saints – partaking sharing hospitality

