

**Belonging to Jesus: “Put Biblical Love Into Practice”
Romans 12:9-21**

Romans 12:9-13 “Genuine Love”

⁹ **Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.**

¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

1. Let love be genuine (“without hypocrisy”).

(Romans 12:9; for “without hypocrisy,” see 2 Corinthians 6:6; 1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 1:5; James 3:17; 1 Peter 1:22)

2. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

(Romans 12:9; for “hold fast,” see Matthew 19:5; 1 Corinthians 6:16-17; for the concept connecting love and obedience, see 2 John 6)

Day by Day in the Word

“Day by Day in the Word” is a tool we use to help us in the process of becoming more and more like Jesus and ultimately to bring glory to God. The biblical principle is: The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness.

Monday-Tuesday

- This week we are going to work on a number of passages dealing with love (*agape*). What observations can you make from the following passages: Mark 12:28-34; John 13:31-35; 1 John 4:9-11; Romans 5:5-8?
- What principles can you find that would help to summarize what you’ve looked at? How will this affect your life today? It would be helpful to discuss this with a friend, both in terms of what you’ve learned and what applications you are focusing on.

Wednesday-Thursday

- Let’s take some more passages on love. What observations can you make from the following passages? Romans 13:8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13; Galatians 5:13-14; Ephesians 5:2; Colossians 3:14; 1 Timothy 1:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; James 2:8-9; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 2:7-11; 3:10-18; 4:7-12, 18-21.
- What principles can you learn from these passages and how can you apply what you’ve learned to your life?
- Spend some time with a friend or a group discussing what you’ve learned and what agape love is from a biblical perspective. What does it look like in our family life today? In our church life? At our places of work?

Friday-Saturday

- Let’s take the word, “brotherly love” (*philadelphia*) today. Make observations from the following passages: Romans 12:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; Hebrews 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22; 2 Peter 1:7. What does it mean? What does it look like? What do I do if I don’t have “brotherly love” for someone? What do I need to do to develop it in my life today?
- Let’s also look at the word “without hypocrisy” (“genuine”, “sincere”) which is found in Romans 12:9; 2 Corinthians 6:6; 1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 1:5; James 3:17; 1 Peter 1:22. The background of the word could be paraphrased as “not playing the part of an actor on the stage.” Instead, try to be genuine. How does this impact our love?
- Discuss your thoughts with a group of friends and determine how you can apply these truths to your life this week. Be sure to have someone hold you accountable for what you’re working on.