

LOVE

Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

05 – Rom. 12:10a

Romans 12:9-21: How to have sincere, non-hypocritical LOVE (v. 9a)

"Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

THE FIRST & LAST VERSES:

- are like "bookends."
- focus on the issue of **EVIL vs. GOOD**.

Scripture quotations • NIV

Now it's time to focus on the "everything between" verses.

"Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

EVERYTHING BETWEEN:

- teaches us how to do these things (v. 9).
- guides us from "attitude" to "action" (v. 21).

Scripture quotations • NIV

EVERYTHING BETWEEN

These instructions fall into 3 categories.

- 1) How to interact within the family of believers (v. 10-13).
All people who belong to Jesus.
- 2) How to interact with all people (v. 14-16).
Saved and unsaved people alike.
- 3) How to interact with enemies (v. 17-20).

Romans 12:10-13 are instructions for interaction within God's FAMILY.

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.
Honor one another above yourselves.

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

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:10-13 (NIV)

It's all one sentence in the original N.T. Greek language (along with part of v. 9)!

We could describe this section as: "Treat Family as Family"! *

- This is highlighted in the first line:

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.

Romans 12:10a (NIV)

* (SEE IMPORTANT NOTE, NEXT 2 PAGES!)

When we mention "Family"...

- We are referring to "family" the way God designed (and commanded) families to be!
- We realize that, in this sinful world, many people have "less-than-pleasant" family situations.



★ In the Bible, you can learn what a God-honoring family is like. ★



The New Testament GREEK language had 4 words that we can translate as "love."
(Remember this from a couple weeks ago?)

1. **Ερως (Eros)** – *Romantic Love.*
2. **Στοργή (Storgē)** – *Family Love.*
3. **Φιλέω (Phileō)** – *A very strong Friendship Love.*
4. **Ἀγάπη or Ἀγαπάω (Agapē or Agapaō)** – *Commitment love, often called "Christian love."*

[SIMPLIFIED DEFINITIONS]

TWO of these words are found in verse 10!

2. – *Family Love* and
3. – *A very strong Friendship Love.*

Together, they help us to understand the nature of this love that **must exist** within God's family.

THIS LOVE IS NOT "OPTIONAL"!

- Much of the New Testament was written to "newborn" Christians. They wanted to grow (as all genuine Christians do), but didn't yet know how to grow.
- Until they understood this love, they could not grow in it.
- Once Paul explained these things, the genuine Christians would pay attention and begin to grow. But the fakes wouldn't.

Be devoted to one another in **brotherly love.**
Romans 12:10a (NIV)

#3 – A very strong Friendship Love, combined with the word "brother," to form one word.

- This refers to people who belong to God's family, the "brothers."
- It does **NOT** refer to love toward "outsiders."

TRIVIA: The city of "Philadelphia" gets its name from this word! (Literally, "Love for the brothers"!)

Be devoted to one another in **brotherly love.**
Romans 12:10a (NIV)

God's people have this type of love.

God puts it there. It comes with salvation!
– Its presence or absence proves whether or not you are saved.

For God himself has taught you ...
1 Thes. 4:9b (NLT); see also 1 Peter 1:22

But it needs to GROW – and this verse shows us how.

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.
Romans 12:10a (NIV)

#2 – **Family Love** combined with #3 – **A very strong Friendship Love, to form one word.**

- Our love within God's family of "brothers" (and "sisters") must be the type that should exist within a family.
- We must be devoted to each other as members of a family, because all who are born again are one family.

Not everybody is part of our family!

- We are all originally born into one family, but only some are born again into a new family.
 - ALL are born into the devil's family.
 - FEW are born again into God's family.
- Scripture shows us how to determine which family we belong to.
 - Claiming to belong to God's family is not what causes it to happen!

[Which family do YOU belong to?]

But when people keep on sinning, it shows they belong to the Devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy these works of the Devil.

Those who have been born into God's family do not sin, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they have been born of God.

So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the Devil. Anyone who does not obey God's commands and does not love other Christians [= "the brothers"] does not belong to God.

1 John 3:8-10 (NLT)

Some obligations toward FAMILY do NOT extend to NON-FAMILY.

Even when they do, Scripture requires a difference in emphasis!

Whenever we have the opportunity, we have to do what is good for everyone, especially for the family of believers.

Galatians 6:10 (GW)

SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON FAMILY!

People often distort Scripture passages about FAMILY by applying them to NON-FAMILY.

[From a parable] "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' "

Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

THIS PROVES WE NEED TO GIVE FREE HAND-OUTS TO THE UNSAVED!!!

NO, THIS PROVES WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF FAMILY. "BROTHERS" REFERS TO "FAMILY," NOT OUTSIDERS!!!

Who are Jesus' "brothers"? *

NOT JUST ANYBODY!

Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!

Matthew 12:50 (NLT)

So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.

Hebrews 2:11 (NLT)

* (Includes "sisters.")

NOTE THE CONTEXT OF MATTHEW 12:50

As Jesus was speaking to the crowd, his **mother and brothers** were outside, wanting to talk with him. Someone told Jesus, "**Your mother and your brothers** are outside, and they want to speak to you."

Jesus asked, "Who is **my mother**? Who are **my brothers**?" Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "These are **my mother and brothers**. Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is **my brother and sister and mother!**"

Matthew 12:46-50 (NLT)

THIS FAMILY BOND IS TO BE STRONGER THAN THOSE OF A BIOLOGICAL FAMILY!

HIS BIOLOGICAL FAMILY

THE FAMILY OF GOD

FINALLY...

One last thing!

"ONE ANOTHER" shows us that recipients of this love must also be givers of this love!

Be devoted to **one another** in brotherly love.

Romans 12:10a (NIV)

I'D RATHER BE A SPONGE AND JUST SOAK IT ALL UP!!!

This is sin!
(It's evidence that we are NOT part of the family.)

Next week...

- We plan to look at a very important way that we demonstrate this love...

Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:10b (NIV)

- But for now ...

Your Mission...

"BROTHERLY LOVE" CHARACTERIZED BY "A STRONG FAMILY DEVOTION"

WHAT IS YOUR "BROTHERLY LOVE" LIKE?

- Does it exist? If "YES": Then GROW in it!
- Does it **NOT** exist? If "YES": Then turn to Jesus and become part of his family! He will grow this love in you.

Credits

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Your Mission...

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love."

Romans 12:10a (NIV)

"BROTHERLY LOVE" (in this context, *not* referring to gender) - The strong friendship that exists between those who are connected by a close bond. Here, the concept is tied to our relationship to other members of *God's* family. (Scripture describes *all* who belong to Christ as "brothers.")

THIS LOVE IS:

INCLUSIVE: It applies to *all* who are genuine followers of Jesus, without any distinctions or divisions.

EXCLUSIVE: it excludes all who are *not* genuine followers of Jesus.

This love exists in *all* who have been born into God's family, because God puts this love in them. But it must (and will) *grow* in its intensity and purity, as we grow in our salvation.

"BE DEVOTED" - Having the intense devotion and loyalty of a closely-knit family. This instruction teaches us the way our "brotherly love" is to develop.

"ONE ANOTHER" - This relationship is *not* one-sided, but works in both directions. *All* family must be involved. *All* must grow in this love for the others.

Learn more about your "brotherly love"!

Some of the Scripture themes include:

- 1) It is a necessary characteristic of God's people.
- 2) It will be present in God's people, because God (and our obedience to his Word) has put it there! (If it isn't there, we have no basis for claiming we're saved.)
- 3) It is often connected to "commitment love" (the type of love mentioned in Romans 12:9a). Even if our "brother" acts "less-than-brotherly" toward us (because he needs to grow up in his salvation), our commitment love for him will continue.
- 4) It needs to continue and to grow. Though *all* of God's people have this love in them, *none* of us have it 100%.

Verses about this love: Romans 12:10 (what this love must be like; tied to commitment love in verse 9); 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 (taught by God; associated with a growing commitment love); Hebrews 13:1 (our obligation to keep on doing it); 1 Peter 1:22 (the results of obedience; show it by your commitment love); and 2 Peter 1:7 (one of several qualities that must grow in us; connected to assurance of salvation in v. 10-11).

A few "one anothers"...

Some general concepts: This phrase ("one another" or "each other") occurs more than 90 times, and indicates a "two-direction" action. The most frequently-occurring "one another" theme involves *commitment love*. When referring to the conduct of individuals, the "one another" indicates that *each* individual is to be *both* giver and receiver of the action being described. Below are some examples.

"One anothers" to do: John 13:34-35; Galatians 5:13; Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; 1 John 4:7, 11.

"One anothers" to not do: Galatians 5:15; Colossians 3:9.