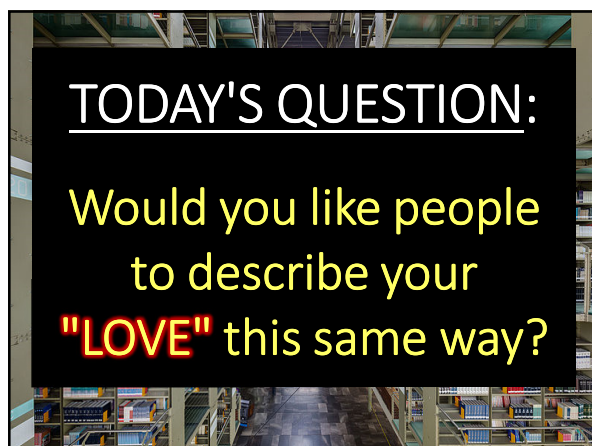
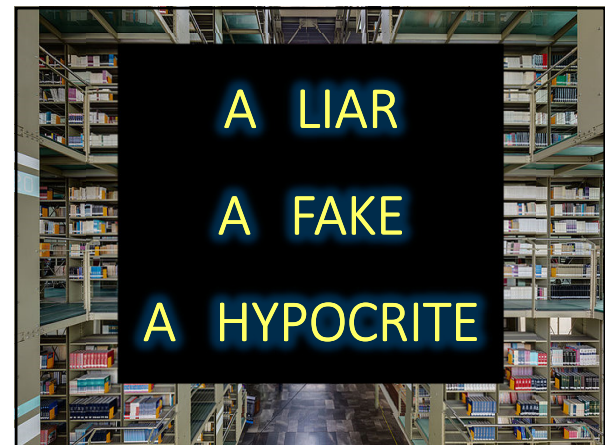
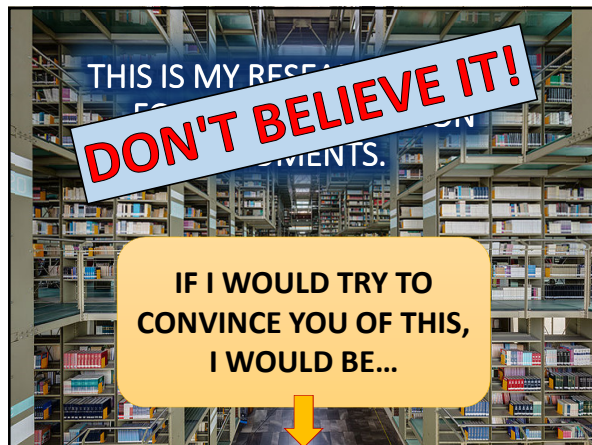


LOVE

Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

02 – Love in N.T.
& Rom. 12:9a



The **NEW** Testament was written in the GREEK language

At that time, there were 4 words that we could translate as "love." The first 3 are ...

1. **Ερως (Eros)** – *Romantic Love*, mentioned twice in the Greek translation of the Old Testament. (Not in the New Testament.)
2. **Στοργή (Storgē)** – *Family Love*, in the N.T. as part of a compound word (combined w/ phileō) – in Rom. 12:10.
3. **Φιλέω (Phileō)** – *A very strong Friendship Love* – also found in Rom. 12:10 (& numerous other places in the N. T.).

[SIMPLIFIED DEFINITIONS]

The 4th word is...

4. **Ἀγάπη or Ἀγαπάω (Agapē or Agapaō)** – Commitment love, a choice (not an emotion) that results in action – forms of this word are found in v. 9 and 19 (& quite often throughout the N. T.).

[SIMPLIFIED DEFINITION]

We often call this "Christian love."

This is the love of 1 Corinthians 13, where we read:

"Love never fails."

1 Corinthians 13:8a

Because it's a choice, Commitment Love is ongoing...

- Even when the recipient of love responds with hate.
 - This love requires us to love our enemies just like our "Father in heaven" does (Mat. 5:44-45) & like Jesus did.
- Even when our emotions and feelings go against it.
 - Jesus didn't "feel" like dying on the cross. He chose to do it, because of his "commitment (agapē) love" for us.

"Love never fails."

→ IT'S ONGOING!

1 Corinthians 13:8a

Because it's an action, Commitment Love is ongoing...

- Even when doing so is difficult or unpleasant.

EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE that may be difficult:

- Disciplining children for their good (instead of doing it in anger); punishing criminals for the good of society.
- Withholding from an individual things that would encourage him to sin (such as food for a lazy person, or alcohol for a drunk).

Commitment Love is ongoing. IT DOES WHAT IS GOOD AND RIGHT.

- Even when doing so is fatal.

Now, no one is likely to die for a good person, though someone might be willing to die for a person who is especially good.

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ **to die for us while we were still sinners.**

Romans 5:7-8 (NLT)

Some types of love may do THIS (perhaps Family Love or Friendship Love).

Now, no one is likely to die for a good person, though someone might be willing to die for a person who is especially good.

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ **to die for us while we were still sinners.**

Romans 5:7-8 (NLT)

Commitment Love is willing to do THIS.

Some types of love can occur naturally.

- Romantic Love
- Family Love
- A very strong Friendship Love

One type of love does not occur naturally.

- Commitment ("Agapē") Love

The only way we can get Commitment ("Agapē") Love is to get it from GOD!

- Otherwise, the most we can do is FAKE it.

"We love because he first loved us."

1 John 4:19 (NIV)



If God's love is in us...

it will show itself in our love.



Romans 12:9-21 is a focus on "Commitment (Agapē) Love"

- Verse 9a shows us our obligation.
- The rest of the chapter gives examples to guide us.

As we shall see, this love :

- 1) ONGOING – regardless of the way people respond to it, and whether or not we "feel" like doing it.
- 2) ACTIVE – affecting the way we interact with others.

Romans 12:9a – Our obligation

"LOVE MUST BE: "Sincere"
"Without hypocrisy"

(2 ways to translate the same N.T. Greek word.)

Other ways to say it:

LOVE MUST BE: genuine, real, without pretense or deceit

LOVE MUST NOT BE: fake, an imitation, pretentious

What are the characteristics of a "hypocrite"?

It's like putting on a mask.

What people see on the "outside" does NOT match what is actually there on the "inside."



It's like JUDAS, who betrayed Jesus with a friendship kiss!

DO YOU BETRAY THE SON OF MAN WITH A KISS?

It's following SATAN's example!

...for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

2 Cor. 11:14b (NIV)

Even religious leaders can be guilty of this. (See 2 Cor. 11:15)



WAIT UNTIL I PUT ON MY "PREACHER MASK"!



Though our focus today is on sincere, non-hypocritical LOVE, we need to encourage each other to resist every form of hypocrisy.

(THEY ARE ALL INTERRELATED.)



LORD, I WAS A FAKE TODAY. HELP ME TO LOVE THE WAY YOU LOVE!!

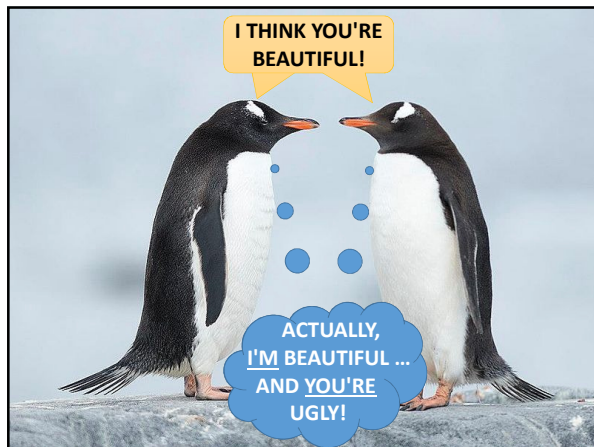
Your Mission...

THIS WEEK:

THINK: about hypocrisy, sincerity and LOVE
(especially "commitment love").

- Is your love patterned after God's love?
- Is there room for improvement?

PRAY: for a willingness to change where necessary.



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Your Mission...

"Love must be sincere." - Romans 12:9a (NIV)

For a sincere, non-hypocritical **LOVE,
we need a sincere, non-hypocritical **LIFE**.**

A LIFE THAT IS:

**sincere, genuine, real, without pretense or deceit,
not hypocritical, not fake, not an imitation,
not pretentious**

This week - Consider the ways of the hypocrite and the ways of someone filled with God's love - two *opposite* ways. Let the way of God's love guide you in your actions this week!

What a hypocrite is like... (Examples of their characteristics)

Double standards - Luke 6:41-42

Distorted values - Luke 13:14-16; Matthew 23:23-24

Pretension - Matthew 23:25-26 (pretending to be clean)

Doing religious activities in order to impress people - Matthew 6:1-18 (several examples)

The way God sees hypocrites - Matthew 23:27-28

We must get rid of any hypocrisy in our lives! - 1 Peter 2:1

Hypocrisy is an *easy* trap to fall into. Even the apostle Peter fell into the trap (until Paul, in love, rebuked him) - Galatians 2:11-14

(Peter was guilty of a form of hypocrisy that is quite common today. He backed-away from *living* the truth, in order to *not* displease certain other people. Today, we might say he was being "politically correct.")

We must pursue things that are sincere* and not hypocritical!

Our faith - Represents our relationship to *God*: 2 Timothy 1:5
(Timothy's praiseworthy example)

Our love - Represents our relationship to *people*: Romans 12:9

Godly wisdom (instead of "the other kind") - Represents *all of life*: James 3:17 (vs. 13-18 contrasts the 2 types of "wisdom")

**If we are growing in our salvation,
hypocrisy won't characterize our
lives. But since we haven't
reached perfection, we must
continue to fight it.**

* (Some verses, such as Romans 12:9, contain a word that is the "negative" of hypocrisy - in other words, "non- hypocritical." We can also translate it as "sincere.")