

1. In Romans 12:9, Paul teaches us about what our love look be, by teaching us what it should not be!

- a. Never forget child of God that "You are bought with a price, (Christ's love) therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."
- b. Let the mercies of God (specifically from God to you) be THE WHY you live your Christian life and let THE HOW you live your Christian life be that you present your bodies "a living sacrifice" each day to God!
 - i. Let this be WHO you are not just on Sunday, but every day of week!
- c. This past Wednesday, we learned about how each of us are to function in the church, how you are to USE your faith (and your talents) which God has given each one of you as His servants!
- d. God didn't save you for you to do nothing for the Kingdom of Christ! There are no sidelines and no benchwarmers among God's people... When He adopted you into the family of God, He gave you "a measure of faith" to use for His honor and glory, and as a member of the body of Christ.
 - i. But there is a danger here that Paul warned us about, "thinking too highly of yourselves" (in the body) or putting yourself in a place or ministry that is too much for the measure of faith that God has allotted you.
- e. This is probably the most difficult aspect of this passage, you might be asking right now, "So, what has God called me to do?" I can't tell you that, I can help lead you, but I do know that God has given your faith to you, for you TO USE in His church to honor Him! And, God has given His love to you for you to use!
 - i. That brings us to Romans 12:9: "Let (your) love be without dissimulation, (or without hypocrisy)."

2. True and sincere (agape) love cannot be hidden, will not be hidden!

- a. This "love" that Paul wrote of will STAY the course, it will cause those who have it to wholly give themselves and their lives for the sake of others, it won't waver when it is put to the test, and this agape love will not cease be expressed, even when it is hated! Romans 5:6-10
- b. When Paul wrote "let your love be without dissimulation (or hypocrisy), what he was teaching the saints at Rome (and us) is that there is "a love" out there that is insincere and hypocritical.
- c. And here is where it gets personal, here is where you must examine yourself and YOUR LOVE this morning! Is your love toward others heartfelt? Christlike? Is it "similar and very much like" the love of Christ? It should be, but if not, that is what you should desire and be reaching for!

- d. Or are you pretending to love others, sinners that you meet in here and out there, your brethren, and your neighbors?
 - i. Hypocritical (or pretended) love will only love express itself to be seen, applauded, and to get attention! Pretended love will not stay the course, but it will fail when things get difficult, it will not give of itself for the sake of others and will turn away when it is not loved!
- e. I want you to understand, I am not telling you that YOUR LOVE won't be tested, BUT HOW will that happen?
- f. God is going to put people into your life who are going to be very hard for you to love! They may even hate you!
Matthew 5:43-47.

3. But that is so hard! Dear child of God, if the love of Christ is in you, God didn't give it to you for you to bury it, but to use it. THIS IS one of the primary ways that God will use to teach you HOW to love like Christ loved!

- a. If you would LOVE like you should love, OUTWARDLY, you must first be rooted and grounded in love INWARDLY, in your heart and soul.
- b. God desires truth in the inward parts, He also would have you to be filled with His love in your inward parts!
Ephesians 3:14-21, Galatians 5:22
 - i. How will God's love look coming out of your life? 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, James 3:17-18, 1 Peter 3:8, 4:7-8, 1 John 3:16-18, 4:7-21.
- c. Do you know why the Lord Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief? I've thought about this passage a lot in recent days.....The easy answer was because of all the sin and wickedness in the world that was all around Him, that vexed His Holy and Righteous soul, even the sin in the lives of His own disciples. But I think the closer answer is this:
 - i. It was because of His great love for sinners! Jesus could not but hate sin, and yet Jesus could not but love sinners in their misery! He saw their grief and sorrow, but He didn't just see it, He absorbed it and carried it to His cross. Isaiah tells us: "Surely He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows."

4. In closing, I give you this final thought about the love of Christ:

- a. It will continue IN YOU throughout all eternity.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 13:8-13
 - ii. "Let (your) love be without dissimulation (or hypocrisy)." Let your love be the love of Christ!