

Genuine Love

Rom 12.9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

* **How does** the first sentence of vs 9 read in the Greek?

* **What is** the key to us using spiritual gifts as God intended, to serve one another in the body of Christ?

* **How & why** does this section parallel what Paul wrote in 1Cor 12-13?

* **What is** the effect of any act of genuine love, no matter how small? (Mark 9.41)

* **What is** the only thing that builds up the body of Christ?

Eph 4.16 [T]he whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, ... causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

* **Spirituality is** defined not by spiritual gifts, but by spiritual _____, the chief among which is _____.

1Cor 13.1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

* **If we want** to show genuine love, in a nutshell what should we do?

John 13.34 “[L]ove one another, as I have loved you ... 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples”

* **Name six** characteristics of genuine love that Paul spells out for us?

– **1) Genuine love** seeks the objective _____ of others, wanting them to come & remain under the _____ of God. Vs 9: “Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

Prov 13.24 He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

Col 3.16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Eph 5.18 [B]e filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Prov 25.11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

– **2) Genuine love** is _____ & loyal to brothers & sisters in Christ. Vs 10: “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love”.

John 13.34 “[L]ove one another, as I have loved you ... By this all will know that you are My disciples”

– “rejoicing in hope”

– **3) Genuine love** _____ out for the interests of others. Vs 10: “in honor giving preference to one another”

Rom 8.23 [W]e ... eagerly [a]wait for ... the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope ...

1John 3.2 [W]e know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Rom 5.2 [W]e ... rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

– “patient in tribulation”

Rom 8.28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son

– “continuing steadfastly in prayer”

Phil 2.3 [W]ith humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who although He existed in the form of God, did regard equality with God a thing to be grasped [i.e., clutched], 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 ... He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him (NASB)

John 15.12 “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

– **4) Genuine love** is _____ to serve. Vs 11: “not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord”.

– “not lagging in diligence”

– “fervent in spirit”

– “serving the Lord”

Rom 8.9 [I]f anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you ... (also Acts 9.4; Mat 25.40, 45)

– **5) Genuine love** is _____ and faithful.

Vs 12: “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer”

– **6) Genuine love** looks for tangible ways to fill _____ and encourage their brethren in Christ. Vs 13: “distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.”

Neh 8.10 “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength” ... 12 And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

1Cor 13.7 [Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails.