



WEEK 3

STUDY GUIDE

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JULY 18-22, 2022



Monday July 18, 2022

Read: Romans 12:9-10

Scripture Verse: *“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.” Romans 12:9*

Today’s Thought:

According to the Greeks, love is an abstract, universal feeling that everyone experiences, but in different ways. So, love can be interpreted in different ways depending on the context.

Someone once said: *“Love is one of the most common, yet misused and misunderstood words in the English Language. On the bookshelf, “love” is synonymous with “romance” and seldom used without a sexual connection. On television, love is depicted by programs like “Love Boat.” Commercials tempt the audience to pay for a call to a “love connection,” where companions can be matched or where romantic secrets are told. Even Christians have a very fuzzy grasp of the meaning of love. The lyrics of all too many contemporary Christian songs use the word love in a way that falls far short of that which the Bible defines and describes. “I love the way you love me.” Are the words of one song. The meaning seems to be “I love the warm, fuzzy way you treat me and make me feel so good.””*

In this quote, no praise is made of God himself, of who He is and what he has done, no mention about the manifestation of his love and compassion for us. There is no mention of our devotion to God and service to others. In this study we will discover what sincere love is.

Every Christian who reads this verse should bend under this exhortation. *“Love is sincere.”* Sincere love or supernatural love of God is very important in Christian life because love is the very essence of the nature of God. He who practices the supernatural love dwells in God, and God in him. *“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.”* 1 John 4:16. Sincere love does not exist only in words or in professions, but it should be manifested in acts of kindness, acts of compassion, and affection (1 John 3:18). Sincere love of the Christian for one another must be free from manipulation, meaningless and deceptive admirations. True love pushes the Christian to hate and fear evil, and love and rejoice in all is good and useful. Sincere love causes the Christian to have a life full of peace,

tranquility and joy, a life of well-being with yourselves and others. The Christian must not only do what is good but must cling to it. Your sincere love should be word and action in line with God's love.

Therefore, only the Spirit of God is able to produce this blessed fruit in our lives. Let love be without camouflage. Do not have insincere love; don't let your love wear a mask, do not make empty professions. Love God and your neighbor. Show that your love is sincere. *"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart"* 1 Peter 1:22

My prayer today is: May we love one another without hypocrisy, abhorring what is evil and clinging to what is good. May we love others the way you love them. Unite us with the other Christians of my church and community in order to walk in your love and practice it.

- What is the secular world view of love?
- What is sincere love or supernatural love?
- How do you show this sincere love to others?
- Why is it important to realize that sincere love is a must, not a feeling?

Further Reading: 1 John 3:18-23

Tuesday July 19, 2022

Read: Romans 12:9-10

Scripture Verse: *“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.” Romans 12:9*

Today's Thought:

Earlier, we talked about what sincere love is. Now it is very important you and I grasp the concept *“hate what is evil.”* In this world where we live, there are Christians who take pleasure in defending evil, there are others who close their eyes or who don't care about anything that happens around them. There are others who say it's high fashion, I have to engage in evil like others do. There are people who continue to practice the law of retaliation: *“an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.”*

As Christian, how should we respond to evil?

Without double talk, we must answer categorically: We must hate evil because we love God. If we claim to love God and our brothers, we must hate what God hates. If we really love God, we can't compromise with evil, we must hate the things God hates and love the things God loves. Children of God must hate evil and oppose it. If we say we love God, we cannot keep our neutrality towards evil. It is dangerous as a Christian to tolerate evil or even participate in it. We must ask God to arm us with strength and courage to fight against evil. When we do so, he promises to protect our life and rescue us from danger and give us blessings of all kinds.

In fact, we have some vital reasons to hate what is evil: Because we love the Lord and because God hates evil. We must hate evil because evil can separate us from God and will destroy us. When we hate what is evil, God will protect our lives and deliver us from the power of the wicked. He will preserve our soul (psalm 145:20), We will measure the depth of our love for God when we sincerely hate evil. God is looking for a deep relationship with us, but we should be in measure to love and appreciate what God really loves.

Someone says: *“The evil you don't hate will be the evil the devil uses to destroy your calling. Wake up to righteousness! A hate consciousness towards the devil, will cause you to have major impact and live in constant victory!”*

Finally, we must hate evil because *“we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”* 2 Corinthians 5:10.

Father God, thank you for your words you gave me today. Help me to never compromise with evil. Help me to hate the things you hate and love the things you love. Help me to reject every kind of evil and lay aside anything that hinders me from pursuing what is good.

- Should we be friends with evil people?
- What should be our attitude toward evil around us and in the world?
- How should we respond to evil?
- Why should we hate evil?

Further Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:11-15

Wednesday July 20, 2022

Read: Romans 12:9–10

Scripture Verse: *“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.” Romans 12:9*

Today’s Thought:

Earlier, we talked about what the sincere love is and how the Christians should respond to evil. Now, we will talk about “cling to what is good.” You may already know what is good, according to the Bible, so you should cling to it. To be able to cling to what is good, you need to discern it.

You should cling to the love of God’s word. Because his word is a lamp unto your feet (Psalm 119:5). Since you are walking through a fallen world which is very dangerous, you need the word of God to guide you in order to remain in his love. The word of God is the foundation upon which you should stand to resist the arrows of the enemy. The word can put you in a right relationship with God when you forsake the path of love and righteousness.

Cling to the preaching. You should cling to the preaching you have received in church or in small groups, and keep the ordinances of the Scripture. When you cling to preaching, you will be able to stay steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of God. You will have the courage to stand fast against hard times and defend your faith against all kinds of attacks. When you hold fast to preaching you will be able to teach the same message of the cross to others (2 Tim. 2:2).

You should cling to your faith. You should hold fast the profession of your faith without deviation and wavering. Fear and doubt can hinder your ability to cling to the promises of God. Christians are called not to fail, instead, you should cling to the confidence you have in Jesus Christ, and his salvation and live according to his will.

You should cling to righteousness. The Christian should live a life that honors God. He set you apart from the world through Jesus Christ to live in purity, and to conform to the teachings of his word.

You should cling to your hope. Your belief in Christ is not a wasting of time, it should not be limited only to this life on earth. If your hope in Christ resumes in a hope that ends with your physical death in this life, you can consider it as a waste of time. “But if you declare with your

mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9. Don't waste your time. You should hold firm your confession, confidence and your hope until the end. You are waiting for the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13). A glorious event to all believers. Without Jesus, your hope is in vain.

Father God, since I am living in a fallen world which is very dangerous, guide my paths to the center of your love. Help me to cling to your word, to the preaching I have received in church, to hold fast the profession of my faith, to live a life that honors you. Help me to hold firm to my confession, my confidence and my hope in you as I am waiting for the appearance of the glory of my great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

- What are you clinging to these days?
- What are you looking forward to?
- Can you mention five important things you should cling to?
- Why should you cling to these important things?

Further Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Thursday July 7, 2022

Read: Romans 12:9-10

Scripture Verse: *"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves" Roman 12:10*

Today's Thought:

God is love! The Bible says in Genesis 1:26 "Then God said, Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..." God created us to resemble or to look like him and to have a personal relationship with him. He created us to glorify him and to represent him on the earth. Since God is love, those who accept his Son Jesus Christ should effectively love and serve God, and each other, and even our enemies. Sincere love is essential in the Christian life. So, what does it mean to be devoted to one another in love?

Being devoted to each other is extremely important in the church. God created us and put us together through Jesus Christ to serve him and to relate to each other. As Christian we need to know we belong to the same Master; we are true brothers and sisters in Christ. We must love each other with brotherly affection, not trying to please people who are watching us but God who knows our heart.

Being devoted emphasizes the value of being together in a small group, the value of teamwork and collaboration in the church. The Bible says: *"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?"* Ecclesiastes 4:9-11. Being devoted helps Christians to remain connected with each other, to be rooted in Christ and practice spiritual unity in the church and live in complete intimacy with God.

Therefore, we should encourage, comfort and urge each other to look like Jesus, and live a life worthy of God who calls us into his kingdom and glory. We must learn to devote ourselves to doing what is good and live a productive life. We should begin to live the kingdom on the earth in devoting and caring for each other.

Lord, I have seen the kind of well-being that can result from being devoted in love to one another. Help me to take whatever steps necessary to bring your supernatural love to any broken relationships. Help me to

remain warm, to remain connected with each other in Christ so that together we can work for your kingdom and your glory.

- According to God, what is the purpose of your existence?
- What you need to know as Christian?
- What does it mean to be devoted to one another in love?
- In what way to be devoted is very helpful for the Christian?

Further Reading: 5:1-2, Psalms 133:1-3

Friday July 22, 2022

Read: Romans 12:9–10

Scripture Verse: *“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves” Roman 12:10*

Today’s Thought:

In this text we have seen the apostle Paul put emphasis on the importance of exhibiting love to members of the church. He reminded us that this love must be sincere, without hypocrisy. At the end of verse 10, he talked about “Honor one another above yourselves.”

Loving one another is more than feelings and encouragement. The feelings must be rendered into action. You should give proof of your sincere love by honoring one another. When you honor someone, that translates to respect, value, esteem, and consideration you give to that person. You honor someone by respecting this person. Honor is not something you say with your mouth, it’s from your heart. For this reason, the Lord said in Isaiah 29:13, the Israelites honor him with their mouth and with their lips but have removed their heart far from him. The Israelites didn’t have any consideration for God. They have no respect for God. Because of that they don’t treat God as the Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth.

Likewise, when we talk about sincere love, we should respect and honor one another. In other words, do to others what you would like them to do to you, give to others what you would like them to give you. Your sincere love should not have any gates or barriers, because we were created in the likeness of God.

We can say: Respect is how you consider your fellow being, and honor how you behave toward your brothers. Respect walks together with honor; therefore, you should sincerely respect and honor one another. So, apostle Paul gave us this wonderful advice in verse 9: “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.” If it is compulsory to love and respect your fellow creature, how much more should we sincerely love and respect our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Lord, give me a greater heart to be devoted in love to others, to show respect to others and honor them. Help me to be merciful, just as you are merciful, that the world will see your love in me and the difference you make in my life.

- What recommendation does Paul make to the readers of this letter?
- What recommendation does he make to you?
- How would you apply it in your life and in the life of others?
- Why is it important to honor one another?
- Could a Christian who doesn't sincerely respect his brothers and sisters honor them?
- How do you respect and honor others?

Further Reading: 1 Corinthians 13

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