

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:9-10 (NIV)

Lovingly Devoted

What does real love look like? How do you know if you sincerely love other people? Is it enough to have a loving attitude without taking any action? I'm not sure how to answer these questions. **Why is that?** I'm not sure that I have loved others sincerely. In fact, I'm pretty sure that I haven't loved others sincerely. **What makes you think that?** Those words "be devoted" are staring me in the face. I'm not sure how devoted I have been to serving others. **Are you kidding me? Can't you see how much of your time and energies are being devoted to serving others? It looks to me like you are devoting your life to serving others.** Really, it does? **Yes, it does.**

Look at how much of your life is being spent in service to others. Would you say that you use a little bit or most of your time in service to others? I don't want to take credit or pat myself on the back. **I know you don't want that. You have just the opposite problem.** What's that? **You aren't encouraged by the fact that you are devoted to serving me and others. Your devotion to me and others should bring you joy and peace. Instead, you have this false guilt that you can and should be doing more. I will ask you to do more for me. You can be sure of that. But, I don't want you to carry false guilt that you haven't done enough. Do you know what this false guilt will do to you?** No, not really. **It will discourage you and make you want to give up and quit. You will lose the peace and joy of being devoted to serving me and others. Your work will become hard labor that you will not be able to sustain. Guilt induced hard labor is an evil that you must hate and reject. Love motivated devotion to me and others is a joy to be welcomed and savored. This kind of love and devotion will lift you up and encourage and strengthen you to do even more for me and others. But the desire to do more will not come from guilt or a sense of obligation. You can't make yourself to be lovingly devoted to serving me or others. That is something that I will do in, for, and through you. I'd like that. Yes, I know.**

My love is going to do a new work in you. How is that? I want you to grow in the way that you honor others above yourself. You may have noticed that I have already been teaching you how to take a step back so that others can take a step forward. Yes, I've noticed. I want you to encourage others in their love and devotion to me. I want you to show others how they can be devoted to serving me. I want them to see you honoring others above yourself because you are devoted to serving me. There is one more thing that I also want others to see in you. What's that? I want them to see the joy and peace that is yours because you are lovingly devoted to serving me. Will you allow me to do this work in and through your life? Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good.**

Lord, I will hate what is evil and hold on tightly to what is good. I will pursue the life you have called me to live. I will devote all my efforts to loving and honoring others deeply from my heart. Use all my thoughts, words and deeds to bless the lives of others. Amen

Character *Love Must Be Sincere*

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

NIV Romans 12:9-10

Character *Let Love Be Genuine*

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

ESV Romans 12:9-10

Character *Don't Just Pretend To Love Others.*

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

NLT Romans 12:9-10

Character *Let Love Be Without Hypocrisy*

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

NKJV Romans 12:9-10

Character *Let Love Be Genuine*

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

NRSV Romans 12:9-10

Character *Love From The Center Of Who You Are*

Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

MSG Romans 12:9-10

Character *Let Your Love Be Sincere*

[Let your] love be sincere (a real thing); hate what is evil [loathe all ungodliness, turn in horror from wickedness], but hold fast to that which is good. Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence and showing honor to one another.

AMP Romans 12:9-10

Character *Don't Just Pretend That You Love Others*

Don't just pretend that you love others: really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other.

TLB Romans 12:9-10

Character *Let Love Be Without Hypocrisy*

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

NASB Romans 12:9-10

Character *Your Love Must Be Real*

Your love must be real. Hate what is evil, and hold on to what is good. Love each other like brothers and sisters. Give each other more honor than you want for yourselves.

NCV Romans 12:9-10

Love Must Be Sincere

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Character – Romans 12:9-10

In Context: *Read Romans 12*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I will hate what is evil and hold on tightly to what is good. I will pursue the life you have called me to live. I will devote all my efforts to loving and honoring others deeply from my heart. Use all my thoughts, words and deeds to bless the lives of others. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you thought first about another person’s wants and needs rather than your own?

What have you done for another person that is an expression of honoring them above yourself?

When has someone gone far out of their way to honor you above themselves?

How are you making sure that all your thoughts and words and deeds are expressing honor to others?

How has your learning to hate evil caused you to separate yourself from all its various forms?

How are you making sure that you are not engaged in the evil of dishonoring other people?

Who has served as a role model for you of how to honor others with all your thoughts, words and deeds?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Make it your daily practice to love and honor others with all your thoughts, words, and deeds.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you to love and honor others deeply from your heart.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are loving and honoring others deeply from your heart.

Close With Prayer: ***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you love and honor others deeply with all your heart.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will love and honor others deeply from my heart.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I love and honor others deeply from my heart today?
