

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. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality. Romans 12:9-13 (NLT)

My Love

I have heard you say many times that you want to be like me. You want to follow my example. You want to think, and speak, and act like me. You want to live as I lived. You want to do what I did. You also want to be able to know and do my will. Is all this true? Have I heard you correctly? Yes, it is true. Yes, you have heard me correctly. I would give me great joy to know that I am living a life that is pleasing to you. I want nothing more than to be able to know and do your will. **That's good.**

There should be no mystery for you in knowing my will. You cannot go wrong if you follow my example. If you love like I loved, served like I served, and give like I gave, you will be living in the center of my will. You will be living a life that is good and right and true and pleasing to me. That's great. There is one problem, however. **What's that?** Loving like you loved or serving like you served or giving like you gave does not come easily or automatically to me. Loving others deeply and genuinely from my heart will require hard work and my very best efforts. **That is true, you are correct. There is nothing wrong with working hard and giving your very best efforts.** Of that, I have no doubt. There is something else of which, I have no doubt. **What's that?** My own hard work and my very best efforts to love others will fail miserably without your help. **Are you speaking from the voice of experience?** You know that I am. **It is a very good thing that you are willing to acknowledge your shortcomings and inabilities. Here is a secret.** You have my full attention. **I don't want you to love others with your love. I want my love to flow in and through you. I want you to love others with my love. I want my love flowing through you to draw others to me. I want my love being lived out in and through you to shine brightly in the darkness of this world. Will you allow my love to flow in and through you? Will you love others with my love? Will you allow me to help you to love like I loved, serve like I served, and give like I gave?** Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good.**

Lord, loving others deeply and genuinely from the heart does not come easily and automatically. I know that loving others just as you have loved me will require hard work and my very best efforts. Help me to follow your example of loving, giving, and serving. Amen

Promises*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. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:9-13 (NIV)

NIV

Romans 12:9-13

Promises*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. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Romans 12:9-13 (ESV)

ESV

Romans 12:9-13

Promises*Really Love Them*

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. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

NLT

Romans 12:9-13

Promises*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; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

NKJV

Romans 12:9-13

Promises*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. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

NRSV

Romans 12:9-13

Promises*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. Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

MSG

Romans 12:9-13

Promises*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. Never lag in zeal *and* in earnest endeavor; be aglow *and* burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord. Rejoice *and* exult in hope; be steadfast and patient in suffering *and* tribulation; be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people [sharing in the necessities of the saints]; pursue the practice of hospitality.

AMP

Romans 12:9-13

Promises*Really Love Them*

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. Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically. Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and prayerful always. When God's children are in need, you be the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night.

TLB

Romans 12:9-13

Promises*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; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. Romans 12:9-13 (NASB)

NASB

Romans 12:9-13

Promises*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. Do not be lazy but work hard, serving the Lord with all your heart. Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes, and pray at all times. Share with God's people who need help. Bring strangers in need into your homes.

NCV

Romans 12:9-13

Really Love Them

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Promises – Romans 12:9-13

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, loving others deeply and genuinely from the heart does not come easily and automatically. I know that loving others just as you have loved me will require hard work and my very best efforts. Help me to follow your example of loving, giving, and serving. Amen

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

How would you describe love that is not genuine, but only pretending to love others?

How are you holding on to what is good, right, and true as you follow the Lord’s example of loving others?

How do you take great delight in treating others with great respect and honor?

How has the Lord made you able to love others with the love that He has shown you?

When has loving others required some very hard work on your part?

How are you eager to love others by displaying warm and welcoming hospitality to them?

How are you enthusiastically serving the Lord and loving others by helping them when they are in need?

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

Make every effort to love others deeply and genuinely from your heart.

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

Have faith that the Lord will help you to love others just as He loves you.

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 others deeply and genuinely 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 follow the Lord's example by loving others deeply and genuinely from your heart.

Prayer To Carry

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

Lord, I will follow your example by loving others deeply and genuinely 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 follow your example today by loving others deeply and genuinely from my heart?
