



Pt 4- **Being Sincere**

"Our love must be genuine for others."

Romans 12:9-10 (niv)

In **Romans 12**, Paul discusses the practical side of the Christian life. An authentic Christ follower should be known by their love for others. And it is a love that is...

... **An Honest Love.**

1. A Love without Hypocrisy.

Romans 12:9a (niv) *Love must be sincere...*

(msg) *Love from the centre of who you are; don't fake it.*

A love that is put on and fake is hypocritical.

Paul is saying that an honest love can't be experienced or shown without this transformation of our thinking.

This transformation of our thinking can only occur when we contemplate the love of God towards us! **1 John 4:7b** (msg) *...love comes from God...*

We need to develop an honest love, one that comes by contemplating God's love for us.

2. Detesting Evil is essential to gaining honest love.

A mutual hatred of evil and clinging to good is necessary for an honest love.

Romans 12:9b (niv) *...hate what is evil; cling to what is good.*

Hatred of evil should come from first clinging to that which is good

The powerful emotion of hate can then be properly balanced by a love of good!

So the love that is to be shown by authentic Christ followers is to be **"A Love That Can Hate"** when that hate is properly motivated and directed.

3. Honest love is best revealed through being genuine.

Romans 12:10 ^(niv) *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves.*

We are to have great feeling of love towards those who are also Christ followers.

Philippians 1:8 ^(msg) *He knows how much I love and miss you these days. Sometimes I think I feel as strongly about you as Christ does!*

Romans 12:10b ^(niv) *...honour one another above yourselves.*

We are to be willing to applaud others over ourselves!

Philippians 2:3-4 ^(msg) *Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.*

If we live by this verse we will be free from petty jealousies that can threaten our sincere love for others.

... Conclusion

What is the kind of love that God desires for us?
"A Love That Can Hate"!

Such is the love that God has shown toward us...He loves us deeply but hates the sin. His love is honest and sincere, demonstrated by the sending of His Son to die for our sins.

A love that is affectionate and delights in showing honour, as God has done toward His children who obey Him!