

# HOW WE LOVE OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Christian love is \_\_\_\_\_ on Christ's love. v.9

Christian love takes (supernatural) \_\_\_\_\_.

Christian love looks like \_\_\_\_\_ love. v.10a

Christian love is given \_\_\_\_\_. vv.10b-11

Christian love is \_\_\_\_\_ in its commitment. v.12

Christian love is \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrated. v.13

## Romans 12:9–13

<sup>[9]</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>[10]</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>[11]</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>[12]</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>[13]</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (ESV)

# How We Love Our Church Family

---

May 22, 2022

**Open:** Why do we sometimes find it difficult to love others in the church?

**Read & Discuss:** Romans 12:9-13

1. In verse 9, Paul says, "Let love be genuine." What are some noticeable differences between love that is genuine and love that is not? What should we do if we find that our love for others is not genuine?
2. What are some ways we can apply the command in verse 9 to "abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good" in the context of our church family relationships? How are God's standards useful or helpful to our relationships?
3. Paul tells us to "love one another with brotherly affection" (v. 10a) What does "brotherly affection" look like? Why do you think Paul stresses the need for believers to show love for "one another" above our need to show love to everyone? (*See also Galatians 6:10.*)
4. What are some ways we can show honor to each other (v. 10)? What sinful tendencies might get in the way of honoring others? What would you imagine it might look like if the whole church adopted a desire to outdo one another in showing honor?
5. How do each of the commands in verse 11—"do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord"—connect with showing love to our Christian brothers and sisters? What might be helpful in maintaining our zeal and fervency?
6. Verse 12 gives three more commands—"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." How have you seen others show this kind of love to you? How have you found your heart changed by praying for someone you struggled to love?
7. Verse 13 makes clear that Christian love is meant to include practical care for others, especially other believers. What are some ways we can fulfill this call in our current setting and culture?

**Apply:** How have you been encouraged through these verses to take advantage of new opportunities to love your church family?

**Pray:** Pray for each other that we would love others in our church family in a way that honors Christ.

## **Romans 12:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (ESV)