

True Christian Love.

**Romans 12:10** “*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*”

The word affectioned means – (cherishing one’s kindred, especially parents or children) – have a fra-ter-nal relationship (like siblings) towards fellow Christians– and Paul goes on to write “...*in honour preferring one another*” Not in seeking honor for ourselves but in showing it to one another as Christians. – Paul ends this verse with this thought, “...*preferring one another*” This means - to lead the way for others, that is, show a deference, be an adult Christian and an example to others, leading and setting an example in brotherly love.

This verse comes under the subject of “Marks of the True Christian” if you read this passage in context.

I. Introduction

- A. This morning we will be starting a series of sermons, (how long only time will tell) these sermons will be on the very subject of “True Christian Love”. It is my belief that I will be harsh in many ways, but I mean not hurtfulness to anyone. I try extremely hard to love other Christians no matter who they are, do I fail, yes, but I still try. We must understand what God expects of us in Christian Love, and I believe if we study the scriptures boldly, we will honestly conclude we have all failed in Christian Love.
- B. As Christians and as churches we must search the scriptures in our attempt to properly follow the scriptures and to fulfill our responsibility to the Lord our God and our Saviour Jesus The Christ.
- C. I have for some time noticed that some Christians, some churches, and even some Pastors fail to properly exercise the proper love as God has defined in His word.
- D. If one group of the world’s population ought to understand love, mercy, and grace, it should be Christians. God has surely showered us with all three, plus many other benefits.
- E. Sometimes, and only sometimes, I look at other Christians, Churches and even Pastors and pray to God our church, our membership, and myself are not like

them, and I'm talking about like-faith, sometimes they lack or have little of all three. Therefore, I try to be different but understanding it takes much prayer and grace from God to be right in Christian love. Nothing just comes to you; God's Holy Spirit gives it.

- F. We all are to listen, pay attention to God's word, examine our-self, and ask our-self is our heart right in exercising Christian love one toward other Christians and churches. Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 13:5** "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"
1. The reason why Paul calls on these folks to examine themselves, was because that there was occasion to fear that many of them had been deceived. Deception can come to us in many ways. I will get to those ways soon.
  2. Paul said in verse 6 "But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates." This word by definition is – one that is unapproved, that is, rejected – a reprobate could be one not in Christ, but it could one that were not in the proper doctrine of the scriptures. Many things could cause one to be out of sync with the scriptures.
    - a. They might be not taught, or not taught properly.
    - b. They might have fallen out of proper thinking in the scriptures. Allowing one subject to be too strong, affecting other subjects. Every subject of doctrine should not decrease another thought.
    - c. They might be too strong in certain other areas of the doctrine, and it affect their thinking on proper love.
  3. Let us look at God's word on the subject of Christian love. But to properly do this we must separate Christian love from church affiliation and doctrine.
    - a. **1 John 3:22 - 24** "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. (what is the commandment?) And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his

*commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.*" This love is a gift from God because it does not come naturally. If we had it naturally we would not need His gift. Notice **Galatians 5:22** "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*" Everything gracious and merciful begins in love.

- b. Christian love is a must not an option, only true believers have the right love to love God, Jesus, and each other that is pleasing to God. Notice these scriptures, **Matthew 22:37 - 39** "*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*" While Jesus is talking to the Pharisees and their lawyer, the truth is only Christians can do this, only true Christians can love others more than themselves, and this is something Christians must do. Exercising love is not an option with stipulations.
- c. Love starts everything else among Christians and love conquers everything else among Christians, and our love for one another causes us to forgive everything else that might cause division. **1 John 4:19** "*We love him, because he first loved us.*" Love is not division. How would we feel if God stopped loving us?
- d. John wrote in **John 14:23 - 24** "*Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.*" Our struggle in life is to keep His words and to walk in the words of the Holy Spirit, which are the scriptures.
- e. Now the question I have, when are God's people not to love one another?

II. What is Love? **Romans 5:5** "*And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*" -

**Galatians 5:22** “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,”

1. This love only comes through Jesus Christ. **Titus 3:6** “Which he *shed* on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;” Shed means – poured out on us.
2. This is the same Agapao love that the Father loves His son with. **John 17:26** “And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.” - It is the love we need to love God, because a lost person doesn't have that love. **John 15:18 - 19** “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. (19) If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”
3. This is the same Holy Spirit that causes darkness to leave us. **2 Corinthians 4:6** “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”
4. The same Spirit sent from God. **Galatians 4:6** “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”

III. Exercising Proper Love is fulfilling God's Commandments.

1. This Love that the Holy Spirit has given to the believer. With it you are able to love with God's agapē love. **Philippians 2:1 - 3** “If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other **better than themselves.**”
2. Love is fulfilling God's law. **Romans 13:8, 10** “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. (10) Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”
3. **Galatians 5:14** “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

IV. God's love to us.

1. **Jeremiah 31:3** *"The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."* - Everlasting means – eternal or an unmeasured amount of time. – God did not come to love you, loving you is part of His being. God is immutable so is His love for His elect.
2. **John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*  
The word world means - orderly arrangement, it can be used in a wide or narrow sense. This word is used in recognition between Jews and Gentiles, it is used in a narrow sense not a wide sense because God does not love every human soul, and neither did Jesus Christ die for every human soul, that would be biblical contradiction. The love here is for the spiritual seed of Abraham, which is God's eternal elect.
3. **Ephesians 2:4 - 5** *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"* - God is love, it is part of His nature or an attribute of His nature. His love for us is great because it is His gift to us, it is part of Himself given to us. And it is eternal, never to leave us nor forsake us. While our love is limited and comes and goes, God's love is immeasurable or limitless.
4. **1 John 3:1** *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."*

V. Our Love For others in this life.

1. **Proverbs 10:12** *"Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins."* - Just as love of Christ covered our sins with His blood. - **Romans 4:7 - 8** *"Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin."*
2. **Galatians 5:13** *"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."*

- a. The word “flesh” as used by Paul means - corruption, or gross affections. We have been freed from that in Christ.
  - b. The word “serve” means - to be a slave that is literally or figuratively to be in bondage one for the other.
  - c. **1 Corinthians 9:19** *“For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.”* Our gain is more in helping people, especially other Christians. Our reward is not money, but rewards stored in heaven. Helping the lost means showing a servant of Christ is loving others.
3. God wants our love to grow not to shrink. **Philippians 1:8 - 9** *“For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;”*
- a. That our love to God, love to one another, and love to the world may abound. Christians are to be loving people in all things, even this lost and degenerate world. But especially to each other and unto the Lord Himself.
  - b. Our love ought to ABOUND “...more and more in knowledge and in all judgment”
  - c. Knowledge meaning of doctrinal and practical truth. Of biblical truth in our personal actions in this life.
  - d. “in all judgment” not some judgments but ALL judgments. Which means – all perception or discernment or the ability to judge well. According to the scriptural knowledge the Holy Spirit has inserted into your spirit.
  - e. As we grow in the Lord, and in His doctrine of scriptures we mature to adults in the word. This ought to be the goal of every believer, not just to attend church but to use that time to grow into adulthood. Then we know how to judge our actions in knowledge of God’s word as real Christianity and in love. **Hebrews 5:13 - 14** *“For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

4. **1 Thessalonians 4:9** *“But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.”* Mature Christians should not need reminding of our love one for another, it should be spiritually natural.
5. Jesus went as far to say, **John 13:34 - 35** *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*
  - a. The commandment is not a command, it means it should be “Christian Nature” or natural for us to love one another. The word “commandment” means – injunction – or a spiritual decree for every Christian.
  - b. Then God gives us this warning, **2 Peter 2:21** *“For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.”*

VI. Examples of Our love For God.

**Psalms 18:1 - 3** "To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said, I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies."

1. It is God’s love for us that brought us to where we are as Christians. His power and His deliverance.
2. We could never have loved God if He did not first love us.
  - a. **1 John 4:19** *“We love him, because he first loved us.”*
  - b. **Jeremiah 31:3** *“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”*
  - c. **2 Thessalonians 2:13 - 17** *"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning*

chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work."

3. Our love for God should outline everything in our life.
  - a. Our love for God.
  - b. Our love for Christ.
  - c. Our love for each other.
  - d. Our love for the churches.
  - e. Our love for God's word.
4. Our love for God should cause us to obey the scriptures.
5. **2 John 1:6** "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it." – God's love in us causing us to walk in His word, His love, which is our love outlining our walk-in life.
6. This is love outlining our life.
  - a. Giving to the church, even when it is hard. Here is an example: **Mark 12:41 - 44** "And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living." – a mite is a very small or thin coin. Albert Barnes said "value cannot now be easily estimated...It was much less than any coin we have...It was in value about three mills and a half, or one-third of a cent." Both mites were about two-thirds of a penny. But Jesus said "That this poor



widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:" in value to Him. – Giving to God's house is not how much, but the value that it has. – Giving is our show of love to God.

- b. Our love for God is respecting everyone, no matter who they are. **James 2:1 - 4** "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?"
- c. Our works should show our love to God. **James 2:14 - 17** "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." – our works is a result of our salvation, it represents God's love in us, what does your love show? God said in verse **18** "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."
- d. We are to help our widows in the church. **1 Timothy 5:16** "If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed." – if church members need help we must help them. If the poor need help, we must help them. Look at **verse 8** "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." – you will say this is to a household, and your right. But who says it does not apply to the household of faith? Remember **James 2:15 – 16** "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled;

notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

7. Folks, we can give example after example, but our love for God is God's love for us, and our love should underline every section of our life. This is what love is all about.