

BUILDING UP ONE ANOTHER
BE DEVOTED TO AND HONOR ONE ANOTHER
ROMANS 12:9-11

⁹Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
 Romans 12:9-11

I. Love Must Be Sincere

- **Love must be** _____ – “Without hypocrisy” (to pretend what one is not, especially in action, virtue and piety) – Hypocrisy is faking it in order to mislead. Instead, our love must be real, genuine. Remember, “Agape” love is not based on emotions, but a self-sacrificial commitment to care always, whether you believe the other person is deserving.
- **To love sincerely, hate what is** _____ – To “hate” – is to be repulsed by, abhor with a strong passion. Evil (Gr. – πονηρον) in character and actions that is the opposite of “good” (as lived and taught by Jesus) and causes pain, sorrow, and burdens on others. You are evil when you rob others of their joy and cause pain, sorrow, and burdens on others.
- **Cling to what is** _____ – To cling is to glue or bond together in a permanent, unbreakable bond (super glue!). We cling to good – that which is the character and actions of Christ which are morally beautiful and beneficial.
- **Never lack in zeal, keeping in spiritual fervor,** _____ **the Lord (vs. 11)** – Not “lazy” in intense enthusiasm and passion; keeping our spiritual fire (Gr. boil) going regarding our love and serving the Lord.

Sincere Love in Action...

II. Be Devoted to One Another

- **The Church should be the ideal spiritual** _____ – **Bad news** – Too many grow up in incomplete, unstable and dysfunctional secular families where there are poor (or non-existent) parent role models. There is little true love, trust, and acceptance causing a lot of pain. This creates dysfunctional people relationally. **Good news** – God designed the Church – the family of God – to bring emotional and spiritual healing to people who grow up in unhealthy families. People need to learn for the first time how to love and care for others. **Sad news** – Unfortunately, too many churches are also dysfunctional families with judgment, non-acceptance, and pain being inflicted. Growing in sincere love, we can change this by being devoted to one another.



Devoted - (Greek – φιλόστοργοι) - To be kindly affectionate (KJV), loving, loyal and affectionate, actions that a family has for another. This type of devotion allows for the weaknesses and imperfections of others, and emphasizes the positive rather than the negative.

- **How to be _____ to one another** – This is a total commitment to one another to love (brother love) as family. The Church “re-parents” members who have never experience family love, offering trust, acceptance, understanding, guidance and commitment to one another. In larger churches (such as ours), this requires that the church be organized into smaller family groups, such as our Life Groups and Sunday School classes that “do life together” as family. When we are devoted to others, we have their back; we don’t stab them in the back. See also: Eph. 4:26; Phil. 2:1-2; II Pet. 1:5-7; I John 3:14.

III. Honor One Another



Honor - (Greek – τιμη) - To highly value, to give high regard or great respect toward someone – as a person and in their position of ministry or authority.

- **Honor one _____** – To treat others in both words and actions with great respect, high regard, and great value. When we honor others, we treat them as precious gifts given by God for us and for His kingdom. We should honor: 1) **Personally** – share with the person how much you value, appreciate, and respect them; 2) **Publically** – Tell others how much you value, appreciate, and respect a certain individual; 3) **Practically** – In actions, make others “look good” to the world (like an accompanist for a singer).
- **Above _____** – Honoring others is more important than you receiving honor from others. It is all about others, not about you. You value others’ needs above your own. See also: Phil. 2:3-4, I Cor. 10:24.
- **Avoid _____ others** – We dishonor others when we: 1) **Passively dishonor them** – Withhold honor by “punishing” them when they aren’t everything we think they should be, or don’t do everything we think they should do; 2) **Actively dishonor them** – Through criticism behind their backs or spreading negative rumors.
- **Jesus, the supreme example of _____ others** – Jesus washed His disciples’ feet before the Last Supper (John 13:1-16). Jesus told His disciples (and us) “to wash one another’s feet.” Paul often honored others for their work for the Lord in His letters.

When we honor others, we honor God.

When we dishonor others, we dishonor God.

When we are devoted to others as family, we show our devotion to God as our heavenly Father and Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Are you devoted to ALL of our church family members?

Answers: I. Sincere; evil; good; serving. II. Family; devoted. III. Another; yourselves; dishonoring; honoring.