

# *The Righteousness of God*

Love From the Center

## **Romans 12:9-10 (ESV)**

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.

## **John 15:8 (ESV)**

My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples.

The distinguishing mark of a disciple of Jesus Christ is \_\_\_\_\_.

## **John 13:34-35 (ESV)**

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Without love, nothing else matters. (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

The greatest apologetic, or defense, for the Christian faith is love.

The 212 commands Jesus gives His disciples can be summed up in three statements:

1. Love \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 22:37-38)
2. Love your \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 22:39-40)
3. Love your \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 5:43-45)

How we love \_\_\_\_\_, reveals how we love \_\_\_\_\_.

## **1 John 4:20 (ESV)**

"He who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen."

## **Ephesians 4:15-16 (ESV)**

"...speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

Agape love -

Philia love -

What does John, the "Apostle of Love," say about love?

- "God is love." - 1 John 4:8
- "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16
- "By this we know love, that he (Jesus) laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers." - 1 John 3:16

True love is displayed perfectly by \_\_\_\_\_.

Challenge: The love Jesus displayed is the genuine love He commands of His followers. (John 13:34-35)

**John 15:8-10 (ESV)**

"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide in my love.** If you keep my commandments, you will **abide in my love**, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love."

**1 John 3:14 (ESV)**

"We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death."

"Love is willing self-sacrifice for the good of another that does not require reciprocation or that the person being loved is deserving." - Paul David Tripp

Commands from God:

*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*

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (ESV)**

"For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised."

God has placed you within a world of urgent need exactly where you are to be a demonstration of His love.

Prayerful examination in light of Romans 12:9-10:

- Is my love genuine?
- Do I love others as Jesus loves me?
- Do unbelievers know I am a disciple of Jesus by the way I love God and others?
- Do I hate what is evil? Do I hate sin?
- Do I cling to what is good? Do I stand firm in truth?
- Do I desire holiness?
- Do I display brotherly affection to the family of faith?
- Am I showing honor and respect to brothers and sisters in Christ?