



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Genuine Love!

Scripture: Hebrews 13:1 - Let brotherly love continue.

Brotherly love in the biblical sense is an extension of the natural affection associated with near kin, toward the greater community of fellow believers, that goes beyond the mere duty in Leviticus 19:18 to “*love thy neighbour as thyself*”, and shows itself as “unfeigned love” from a “pure heart”, that extends an unconditional hand of friendship that love when not loved back, that gives without getting, and ever looks for what is best in others.

John 3:16-17 says, “*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.*” For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. **The love of God is the most powerful force in the world. God’s love is unconditional. Agape Love!** Romans 5:8 tells us, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Brotherly love is important because it shows that we belong to God. This is perhaps the reason why Jesus told the twelve apostles that by loving one another people will know they are His disciples (John 13:35). Apostle John wrote in 1 John 4:7, “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.” Also, “*If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us*” (1 John 4:12). By showing love with one another that other people will know we are the children of God. As stated in the Book of James, let us love not in word or talk but in truth and in deeds. The Lord is the source of affection and love. **The essence of God’s being is love. It is His very heart. He is love.** If there is a lack of love in our hearts as His followers, we can ask for a sufficient love to fill our hearts so that we can extend it to others.

The qualities of brotherly love are forgiveness, not unforgiveness; kindness, not bitterness; sympathy or sorrow for our brother and sister when they suffer in any way. And there is mutual joy when our brother and sister rejoice. We can purposefully exercise and increase our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ by praying for them, inviting them into your home, meet their needs, forbear, and forgive, refuse to gossip, and fellowship together.

Romans 12:10 tells us, “*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.*” **We can honor others in one of two ways.** One involves ulterior motives. God’s way involves love. As people of God, we honor people because they have been created in God’s image, because they are our brothers and sisters in Christ, because they all have a unique contribution to make to Christ’s church.

What is true love according to the Bible? First Corinthians 13:4-8 – God’s kind of love is directed outward toward others, not inward toward ourselves. It is utterly unselfish. This kind of love goes against our natural inclinations. The more we surrender our lives to Christ, the more love we will be able to show to others. Make sure your love runs deep enough to affect your hospitality, sympathy, fidelity, and contentment. Therefore, we need to get our eyes off ourselves and off the faults of others that we may share the victories and concerns of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Paul stated that we should not be overly impressed with pomp, grandeur, or this world’s version of success. As God told Samuel, our heavenly Father looks beyond the eternal appearance to the very core of the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). Jesus had just as much time for the Samaritan woman at the well as for the ruler Nicodemus. A person’s worth is never measured by his wealth or appearance. Brotherly love is impartial, unselfish, proof of discipleship, sincere, unfeigned, abounding and Christ’s stated the standard of love when He said, “*This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you*” (John 15:12).

In Romans 12:9-21, the Apostle Paul lists several behaviors that mark a true Christian devoted to one another in brotherly love. God calls us to real and sincere love (“let love be without dissimulation”) that goes far beyond pretense and politeness. Real love requires concentration and effort. It means helping our brothers and sisters to become better saints. If we love the brethren the way Christ loves us, we will be willing to forgive. If we have experience God’s grace, we will want to pass it on to others. By giving an enemy a drink, we are not excusing his misdeeds. We are recognizing him, forgiving him, and loving him in spite of his sins—just as Christ did for us. Even if your enemy never repents, forgiving him will free you of a heavy load of bitterness.

Saints of God, let brotherly love continue with a sincere love and with a pure heart!

May you be blessed with the Word of God!