

Review:

1. Sincere Love - True love is genuine.

Two things we need to grow in:

1. Our understanding of God's love for us
2. Our love for each other because of God's love for us

2. Good Hatred - True Love is Discerning.

Two more things we need to grow in:

3. We need to grow in our understanding of what truly is evil—as GOD would define it...
4. And we need to grow in our hatred of that which God calls evil...

This morning:

3. Devoted Honor - True Love is Committed
(v. 10)

Four Key Principles of True, Biblical, Love:

☞ Devotion (v. 10a^(NIV) - Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.)

Greek: philostorgos adj. from *storge* (cherishing one's kindred, especially parents or children);

1. the mutual love of parents and children and wives and husbands.
2. chiefly of the reciprocal tenderness of parents and children. ^(Strong's)

This kind of love allows for weaknesses and imperfections, communicates, deals with problems, affirms others, and has a strong commitment and loyalty to others.

Life Application Commentary

☞ Brotherly Love (v. 10a^(NIV) - Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.)

As family, we have:

- A Common Identity - We are family
- A Common Father - Out of love for OUR Father (and THEIR father)...
- A Mutual Commitment

Proverbs 17:17^(ESV) - A friend loves at all times, & a brother is born for adversity

The Message - Friends love through all kinds of weather, & families stick together in all kinds of trouble.

Love overlooks defects. ^{Arabian Proverb}

☞ Honor (v. 10b^(NIV) Honor one another above yourselves.)

Greek: τιμή [tee-may/] - "honor," "price"

1. a valuing by which the price is fixed.
2. honor which belongs or is shown to one. deference, reverence. ^{Strong's}

The goal of honoring someone is: both...

- to make them look better in the eyes of others
- and to make them feel better about themselves.

NOTE the difference between *honor* and *flattery* (*sincere* love - Honor is sincere. Flatter is manipulative)

The opposite: harsh criticism (as opposed to constructive criticism), tearing down, belittling...

This takes effort in most cases. It is far more natural for us to take note of failure than of effort or even of success.

☞ Deference (v. 10b^(NIV84) Honor one another above yourselves.)

Philippians 2:3^(NIV84) - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better (more important) than yourselves.

Greek: Proegeomai - to go before & show the way, to go before & lead, to go before as a leader. ^(Strong's)

to live as a servant leader - living to make others successful

Matthew 20:20-28 ^(ESV) James' and John's mother came to Jesus and requested him to give them the seats of honor in His kingdom. "When the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

What would this look like if we truly did this?

- † *****We would be more concerned that the efforts of our brothers and sisters were successful than we were about our own...*****
- † **We would be quick to jump in and serve and slow to resent others not doing so...**
- † **We would be quick to acknowledge what others have done and be very willing to have no one even notice what we have done... as long as the glory goes to God and to our brethren...**
- † **We would be VERY SLOW to get angry at others when they "failed" in some way.**

They are the true disciples of Christ, not who know most, but who love most.

FREDERICH SPANHEIM THE ELDER

Two more things we need to grow in:

5. Our commitment to stand by each other through thick and thin
6. Our commitment to doing whatever we can to make each **OTHER** successful

A Truth to Remember: God's love for us is truly sincere. In full awareness and understanding of our sin, He still loves us intensely and enjoys our worship of Him.

A Challenge to Consider: Which of the six things that we need to grow in are you willing to invest in over the next week or so?

One thing I heard this morning was...