



Sermon Series Notes

Love Must be Genuine

Dave Dodge – GS3360

Rom 12:9-21 (Read it)

Love must be sincere or genuine:

- **Love / Grk. Word here is Agape / unconditional**
 - Most always used for the way God loves us
 - Used only here and in Eph 5
 - Peter's restoration in John 21:15
 - **Peter do you unconditionally love me???**
- **Sincere, (Means) Free from deceit, hypocrisy, or falseness**

This one verse is foundational to Christian living

In chapter 12 all verses before it & after it, are poured into it

They make up the content of, "Love must be sincere"

Verses before it, Rom 12:1,2 (Read it)

- **Paul's not asking for a favor here,...but a commitment!**
 - Offering our bodies as living sacrifices,
 - **Commitment is total**
 - holy and pleasing to God- (KJV says)**This is your reasonable service**
 - Does this sound reasonable to Americans
 - **Commitment is logical / reasonable (logikos)**
- **In V1 the language of the commitments is total & logical**

- In V2 the language of the commitments is very expressive
 - Stop conforming to the pattern of this world
 - Be transformed by the renewing of your mind

Yet the greek tense for these verse is *Passive imperative*

- It means that this must be done to by someone else
 - Theologically, this is the work of the HS
 - Compare 2 Cor 3:17,18
 - It is also a process 2 Cor. 5:17
 - Practically, It simply means that our love is sincere

Example: I'm like the woman at the well give me some of that living water so I won't have to.....

- One huge way we get this sincere love is.....

BY KEEPING God's mercy in view

Example: HGTV HH International.....Wake up to that view

- While I am amazed at the views of French and Swiss Alps...
- Viewing and reviewing Gods mercy will actually change me
 - Wake up in view God's mercy....

My amazement, my view, my worship, should never terminate on creative things, no matter how grand and glorious they R. I can appreciate them, but they don't change me. However, pursuing an ever increasing intimacy with Christ by keeping His merciful gifts in view will be transformational.

We have to get this first part right or my commitment will be to achievement theology, trying to earn God's favor by attending

- 1 more LG
- 1 more memory verse
- 1 more corporate church meeting
- 1 more quiet time
- Did I repent enough

Let me tell you something when love is sincere I want repent, have more time w/God. Be with the brethren in corporate worship. I want to commit verses to memory, etc, etc.

Don't go out of here muttering or proclaiming,...Pastor Dave says that I don't have to do anything to be a Christian

You want to fight, you want to battle, you want to get into the trenches and be a warrior for Jesus.....Then fight the good fight, and declare...Since then I have been raised with Christ, I will set my heart on things above, Where

Christ is seated at the right hand of God. I will Set my mind on things above, not on earthly things. For I died and my life is hidden with Christ in God.

There that's the first part of V9,.....Moving on

This is not Rob Bell love, This is not Unity Church love

- **This is God leaving the glory and comfort of heaven....**
 - Taking on human flesh

 - Submitting to His own creation who willingly killed Him and in the process took the penalty and the power of sin and nailed it to the cross

- **This more than a feel Good, warm fuzzy love that is so innocuous that it really has no power to change our lives**
- **As Paul says, "Rom 1:16...I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes**

This priority takes us down the engaging path of sanctification on which I progress or move forward by Faith and repentance

Now I need to employ the disciplines of mercy and grace as I consider key words in these next verses

- **Hate evil, cling to good**
- **Be devoted to one another**
- **Honor one another above your selves**
- **Never lack zeal, but keep ur spiritual fervor**
- **Joyful in hope**
- **Patient in affliction**
- **Faithful in prayer**
- **Practicing hospitality**

Col 1:28, Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

EPH 3:20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to His power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Eusibius 3rd century Church Historian tells this story about the Apostle John as an old man

- Won a young man to Christ / discipling Him
- Had to travel awhile / Bishop of the town,...take care of him
- Came back / where's the young man / dead to Christ
- Went back to life of crime as one of leaders of gang in mtns
- You can't go there they will kill anyone who comes near
- John ripped his cloak, (that's how we know it's a true story)
- John said get me a horse...rode up into the mtns / captured

- Said take me to your leaders of which this young man was 1
- Young man saw John, though he had a sword began to run away
- John went running after him calling,....I'm an old unarmed man, why R U running from me, there is still hope of life for you
- I will gladly death for you as the Lord suffered death for us
- I'll give my own life in exchange for yours
- Stop, Listen, Trust / Man threw away his sword wept bitterly and went back with John. Where do you get this love, courage, etc

Where does John get that kind of commitment?

- He didn't always have it,
 - Mark 9 call down fire / after mt of Transfiguration
 - Luke wanted to sit at Jesus right hand in glory
 - Something happened to John at the foot of the cross
- So impacted Him

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life,

John grounds his readers in the Gospel saying

Jesus The Word, who was with the Father from the beginning

- **Entered human history as a real human being**
- **John proclaims**
 - **That he has seen Him**
 - **Heard Him**
 - **Touched Him**
 - **And has fellowship with Him**

Luke 10 the good Samaritan

Don't be overcome with evil,...overcome evil w/ good

- The challenge for me is it confronts my flesh and relentlessly pursues my depravity,.....look at it with

V9, Hate Evil and cling to what is good

- Lots of evil easy to hate and lots of good easy to cling to...
 - But we have to keep things in context,..Living Christians
 - Paul is speaking primarily about is our evil / our sin
 - **Young / Money management problem**

- Buy something cause I wanted it, then when I was short needed groceries,...oh well guess I'll have to eat the guitar.....
- **Problem:** I hated the consequences of my sin but not my sin
 - Discipline would only be effective for awhile,.....do it again
 - But Paul tells us to hate our sin,
 - Credit cards had to be cut up,.....Christmas was bleak
 - Prepared our children, did yard sales, kids were amazed

Loves affection:

**V10, ESV says, be devoted to one another in brotherly love,
Honor one another above yourselves.**

- **My family background is heathen, so my brothers, sister...**
 - Don't know Christ and though we are family, we are estranged
 - I am blessed with 3 children. Their mates and their children all love the Lord
 - I have 2 great grandchildren and I know they are being raised by Godly parents
 - And I am part of great church family
 - affection with many people in my church family
 - like the affection of my children and grand children
- **Once again celebrating God's mercy I'm reminded**
 - **Christ**

ESV, Out do one another in showing honor