

No Greater Love

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Romans 12:9-10 *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.*

- This word, agape, describes selflessness and an unconditional expression of grace and compassion.

1. _____ **what is evil and** _____ **to what is good.**

Romans 12:9 Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

- God says evil is absolute and it is hardwired into the brokenness of humanity.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:22 “Abstain from every form of evil.”
- Psalm 141:4 Don’t let me drift toward evil or take part in acts of wickedness. Don’t let me share in the delicacies of those who do wrong. (NLT)
- 2 Chronicles 29:6 For our fathers have been unfaithful and have done evil in the sight of the LORD our God, and have forsaken Him and turned their faces away from the dwelling place of the LORD, and have turned *their* backs.
- Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness.
- Josh McDowell: Evil is the corruption of that which is good.
- Abhor means to _____.
- Cling means to be _____,
- Hebrews 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.
- The word cling is a _____ participle.

2. **Be** _____ **to one another.**

Romans 12:10 *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love...*

- 1 Peter 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

- **It’s a love that** _____.

1 Corinthians 13:4, 7 Love is patient, love is kind...7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- **It's a love that sees others for _____ and not just who they are.**

Matthew 16:18 I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

- Consider John Maxwell's Number 10 Principle.

- **It's a love that _____.**

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

- We see this kind of love throughout the scripture.
- David & Jonathan – 1 Samuel 18 - 23
- 1 Samuel 23:16 And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David at Horesh, and encouraged him in God.

3. **Give _____ to one another.**

Romans 12:10 *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.*

- It means putting others before ourselves.
- Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.
- Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice.
- We show deference or respect when we...
 - ...yield to someone's opinion.
 - ...choose not to "one up" others.
 - ...opt not to correct if the correction is not essential.
 - ...actively listen and respond to what is said.
 - ...affirm other people's opinions.
 - ...empathize with different opinions.
 - ...disagree respectfully.
 - ...apologize when you're wrong.
 - ...celebrate others' achievements.

Further Thought:

As you think about these issues, think about them in the context of relationships:

- What will you do to abhor evil and cling to good this week as it relates to your relationships with others? How can clinging to good be "passive" in your life?
- Think of three close friends. How will you show them devoted love this week? How would devoted love change your family dynamic?
- Ask God to show you ways you can demonstrate preference to others.