



Marks of Christian Love

Romans 12:9-21

Something to Start Us Off

- When have you seen genuine, practical love in action within a Christian community? What impact did it have on you or others?

Something to Notice

Let's read Romans 12:9-21 slowly and mark anything that stands out. Think of how these practical commands show what a "living sacrifice" (vv. 1-2) looks like in everyday relationships.

- 12:9 *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.*
- 12:14 *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.*
- 12:15 *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*
- 12:18 *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*
- 12:21 *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Something to Learn

Key Insights:

** This section echoes Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount and shows that genuine love is active, sincere, and has the ability to overcome evil.*

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think Paul begins with "Let love be genuine" (v. 9)? How might this connect to the earlier sections of Romans 12?
- Look at verses 9-13. Which of these commands stand out to you as especially needed in our church or your own church or small group right now? Why?
- Verses 14-21 deal with difficult relationships (persecution, enemies, conflict). What is most challenging about these instructions, and how do we get past that challenge?
- What does it mean practically to "overcome evil with good" (v. 21)? Can you share a time when you've seen this principle at work?
- Can you see how these "marks of a true Christian" flow out of the doctrinal portion of the book that we studied in Romans 1 – 11?

Something to Take Home

- Memorize and/or meditate on Romans 12:21 this week. Ask God to help you live out genuine love this week — especially toward someone who is difficult. How can you show practical love to someone in the coming days?