

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church  
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## "LOVE ONE ANOTHER"

**Lesson Verse: Be kindly affectioned to one another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another. Roman 12:10 (KJV)**

*Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love; in honor giving preference to one another. (Verse 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Romans 12:10 (New King James Version)*

**Show family affection to one another with brotherly love. Outdo one another in showing honor. Romans 12:10 (Christian Standard Bible)**

**Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. (New Living Translation)**

### **GOAL:**

To strengthen the Christian's relationship with fellow Christians by modeling the love of Christ.

### **OBJECTIVES \_ The Participants Will:**

1. Exhibit brotherly love
2. List essential concepts of brotherly love
3. Draw upon personal experiences that strengthen love for one another
4. State reasons why love for one another is germane to Christian relationships

### **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:**

If the Apostle Paul were here at Tabernacle today, would his message to us for strengthening the church be the same? Would he give us a commendation or not? Are we showing brotherly love one to another? Do we prefer one another? How do we accomplish this in a manner pleasing to the Lord?

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Paul writes the letter to the Romans from Corinth around 56-57 A.D. during the close of his third missionary journey. He was responsible for spreading Christianity throughout

the Mediterranean. Phoebe, a servant or minister of the church at Cenchrea had the great responsibility of delivering this letter to the church in Rome. Paul gave her a commendation in chapter sixteen. Paul wanted to strengthen the work in the church through the letter and later by visiting them.<sup>1</sup> He was completing his pastoral support for the churches that he established during his ministry. Since he had finished his work in the East, he planned to visit Rome on his way to Spain to extend his ministry.

The Church of Rome was probably founded by those converted on the day of Pentecost who were scattered throughout the Roman Empire. It consisted mainly of Gentiles with a mixture of Jewish Christians. This church had sound doctrine but needed practical instructions through the application of the preached gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In chapters 1-11, Paul laid theological groundwork for reconciliation in the Roman Church. In chapter 12, he focuses on practical counsel.<sup>2</sup> It has two parts, the law of Christian life and the law of Christian love. The main scripture of focus, Roman 12:10 refers to the believer's relationship with other believers.

- **Other Key Scriptures to review: I Thessalonians 4:9, Philippians 2:3, John 13: 34-35, | John 2:7-11, | John 3:11, 17,18 and 23; | Peter 4:8, Isaiah 1:19, Romans 13:8, Hebrews 13:1, II Peter 1:7, Phil 1:9, Romans 13:10; Colossians 3: 12-20; | Peter 3:8, | Corinthians 13, | John 4: 10-11; John 15:12-13, 17; | John 3:23, I Peter 2:17**

## **DEFINITIONS:**

### **Scripture Passage\_ Romans 12:10:**

**Brotherly Love**, as used in this passage, is the Greek word *Philadelphia*, brotherly love (kindness), love of the brethren. It refers to the love of brothers for each other.

**Agape Love** indicates the nature of the love of God toward His beloved Son, toward the human race and toward those who believe on Jesus. It also expresses the essential nature of God.<sup>3</sup> This term suggests a deep and constant love, an unconditional love. It is an unselfish love that is ready to serve.

**Phileo or Philadelphia** is to be distinguished from *agape*. It represents tender affection. This term is also used for love of the Father for the Son, and for the believer, and Christ's love for a certain disciple (John 13:23, 20:2)<sup>4</sup>

**Philadelphia** is from the root word *adelphos* meaning brother.

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<sup>1</sup> Holman's Bible Handbook

<sup>2</sup> Keener, Craig S. The NIV Bible Background Commentary

<sup>3</sup> Nelson, Bible Dictionary

Vine, W.E. Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary

**Preferring** is from the Greek word *proegeomai* (pro-ay-geh'-om-ahee) meaning to lead the way for others, i.e. show deference: - prefer.

**Kindly affectioned**, is from the Greek word, *philostorgos*, meaning the mutual love of parents and children and wives and husbands. 2) loving affection, loving tenderly, prone to love.

**Storge** is the root word for *philostorgo*, meaning cherishing one's kind, family.

**Honor**, as used in this passage is the Greek word, *time* (tee-may'). It means an advantage to be given by believers one to another instead of claiming it for self.

## **LESSON INTRODUCTION**

Life has a way of dropping us into predicaments where there seems to be no solutions. The only way out comes from the Lord. As you pray, who among your brothers and sisters is available to pray with you? Are there any from the household of faith that you can call upon to walk with you through this period of anxiety? Would you know how to be of support to someone during his or her dark or troublesome time?

Some answers to these questions today come from our study of Romans 12:10. Let us read this passage. Since love is one of the fundamental principles upon which Christianity is built, Romans 12:10 will launch this series of studies on "One Another Relationships". Love is the central thought in this passage.

In this passage, the word 'love' is translated from the Greek word *Philadelphia*, meaning brotherly love (kindness), or love of the brethren. It refers to the love of brothers for each other. This terminology is used symbolically to express Christian love for one another. It extends beyond blood related individuals to the Christian family, the household of faith and the relationship for true believers.

## **BE WILLING TO LOVE**

The Word of God, (Romans 12: 10; Hebrews 13:1, and II Peter 1:7), exhorts us to show love for 'one another' in the Christian faith. *Philadelphia*, brotherly love, is from the root word *adelphos*, meaning brother. From this point on, the word *brothers* will be used to refer to both genders in the church. Believers in Christ are a family with one Father and are considered a brotherhood in the service of Christ. (Matthew 23:8-9)

Since we are told to love one another it would behoove us to be willing to do it. "The prophet Isaiah understood this principle of willingness when he spoke to Israel in Isaiah 1:19 saying, "If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land. "

To love is a decision. It is not based on our feelings. It begins by making a decisive choice to love another in obedience to God's Word. We have to decide to be kind or to do a good deed. This will often require sacrificing time and effort on our part. It may mean sacrificing some of our personal time, to make a phone call, pay a hospital visit, or visit a home to comfort the bereaved.

The 11<sup>th</sup> verse of Romans chapter 12 takes it further by saying that we are to demonstrate love with diligence and fervency in spirit. We cannot lean to our own understanding because our flesh or carnal way of thinking will tell us that we do not have to do all that, we have done enough, or leave it for someone else to do. Complacency or laziness might cause us to entreat another person with half- heartedness or with a mundane sense of duty, instead of a spirit of diligence, fervency, or genuine caring.

According to Romans 12:10 our interactions are to be kindly affectionate. Negative thinking may seek to judge others or find reasons why we do not have to like someone or be kind to another person. God's Word tells us that love seeks the good welfare of all and wills no evil toward any, Rom 13:10. We have to decide not to be rude, disrespectful, or scornful. In Romans 12:2, Paul exhorts us to renew our minds and not to be conformed to the world but to be transformed. Our thoughts and actions must conform to God's way of doing things. Hebrews 10:24 says "*Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.*" Loving one another or doing it God's way is with consideration and good works. Brothers and sisters, let us do it God's way.

*End of Part 1 .....To be continued.....*

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