

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
Copyright Material
2080 West Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48208
Nathan Johnson, Senior Pastor
Copyright Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church

“LOVE ONE ANOTHER”

DATE: October 2005

OPENING PRAYER

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.¹ 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.² 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, I John 2:7-11, I John 3:11, 17,18 and 23; I 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; I Peter 3:8, I Corinthians 13, I John 4: 10-11; John 15:12-13, 17; I 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.³ 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)⁴

Philadelphia is from the root word adelphos meaning brother.

¹ Holman's Bible Handbook

² Keener, Craig S. The IVP Bible Background Commentary

³ Nelson, Bible Dictionary

⁴ Vine, W.E. Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary

Preferring is from the Greek word *proegeomai* (prō-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.

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

Honor, as used in this passage is the Greek word, *timē* (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.

OUTLINE:

- I. **Be Willing to Love:** Isaiah. 1:19, Romans 13:8, Hebrews 13:1, II Peter 1:7, John 13:34-35
- II. **Know How to Love:** Phil 1:9, Romans 13:10; Col. 3: 12-20; I Peter 4: 8, I Peter 3:8, I Corinthians 13
- III. **Summary**
- III. **Application Questions**
- V. **Assignment**

I. **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 here 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 11th 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. . The Word tells us that love seeks the welfare of all and wills no evil toward any, Rom 13:10. We have to decide not to be rude, disrespectful, or scornful. In verse one, Paul exhorted 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.”* Doing it God’s way is with consideration and good works.

I. Know How to Love

Paul said that we are to be kind and affectionate toward one another. **‘Kindly affectioned’** is from the Greek word, *philostorgos*. The meaning of the word is the mutual love of parents and children and wives and husbands. 2) Loving affection, loving tenderly, prone to love. The root word of *philostorgos* is *störgē*, meaning cherishing one’s kind, family. In essence, Paul is saying that we should love one another like we love our family. We tend to love our families with a certain loyalty, perseverance, and tenderness.

In further study of the word, kindly affectionate or *störgē*, we find that it is really an adjective (present, passive participle). This means that it is not a command but that we are to be **transformed**. This transformation comes about through the regenerative work of the Holy Spirit. We must allow Him

to do the work in our hearts and minds. Our part is to renew our minds through the reading of God's Word. The Word of God is powerful, active, and operative (Hebrews 4:12). When we allow ourselves to be transformed by the Word and the work of the Holy Spirit, the brotherly love we demonstrate is genuine and from the heart.

The exhortation to love was not unique to the New Testament. In contrast to the above, Jesus said to the disciples in John 13: 34-35, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. This command presented a new standard, sacrificial love modeled after His love. This is agape love. We are all a work in progress toward achieving this standard.

The question is raised how do I show brotherly love in a manner that God would applaud? The only way is through **prayer, Bible study, faith, and yielding to God's Word**. When we fall short, **pray** seeking forgiveness from God and the strength to surrender to His will. Paul said in Philippians 1: 9, "*I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment.*"

Instructions on loving one another are found in I Peter 3: 8-9; "*Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another, love as brothers, be tender hearted, be courteous, not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.*"

Colossians 3:12 -17 has some clear and helpful points; i.e. 'heartfelt compassion, gentleness, humility, and patience.' We should look for opportunities to show compassion, gentleness, and patience. I Corinthians chapter 13 is the love chapter. Try reading it in different translations. The amplified translation really brings it to life.

Love is a demonstration. It is known from the actions it prompts. It is demonstrated and seen by what a person says or does. Love has an object or a receiver. In this case, it is the brethren. Love has a giver; that may be you or me.

Schools in the secular world will sometimes practice 'Random Acts of Kindness'. Here someone decides to perform a kind deed on behalf of another. In turn, the person who demonstrates the kind act is acknowledged or rewarded by the school. It is the hope of the administrators, that kind behavior will become a habit. This is what God desires from us. He wants us to grow in love. The plan or the blueprint for Christians on how to show brotherly love is in the Word of God. This is the master plan that we are to follow. Let us not let the secular world outdo us.

Paul said that we are to show kindness and love in honor, preferring one another. The word 'preferring' is from the Greek word *proegeomai* (prö-ay-

geh'-om-ah-ee) meaning to lead the way for others, i.e. show deference: - prefer. God wants us to lead the way in showing brotherly love. We should be the first to step out in saying or doing something good for another person. The Christian Standard version says to 'outdo another in showing honor'. Sometimes, when it is not expected, just a kind word said to a person, such as "I am praying for you" or "How can I help?" is all that is needed to show brotherly love. When a brother or sister is in bereavement just being present is ministry. The person is comforted knowing that you cared enough to take time to express your care for them. Finally, God first demonstrated love toward us. He gave the best He had, His Son, for the atonement of our sins. Therefore, if God our Father and Creator loved us this way and this much, we ought to love one another. (I John 4: 7-11)

II. Summary:

We often underestimate what it takes to fulfill the *true* experience of Christian love for one another. The application of *love* from the Word of God requires a conscious effort and commitment to deliberate acts of kindness, because its purpose is to grow in relationship with God as we obey the teachings of Jesus.

We also must consider how our willingness to obey has been conditioned by lessons in rejection, criticism, racial bigotry and dysfunctional relationships among family members. These are weapons Satan uses to stifle your effort to obey the Word of God and truly love one another.

To experience genuine love for one another is the only Christian affection that pleases God. Jesus taught us to *forgive*, and God forgives us in the same manner that we forgive. Ask for God's forgiveness daily in order to prepare your heart for forgiving others. This will enable you to move to the fulfillment of love for one another. Pray until you feel His presence comforting your heart as you grow to love others.

It may help to imagine a friend or family member who seems to easily model and express a genuine love for others. This character is easily recognized. One of the benefits of this person's affection is the amount of genuine love he or she receives from others.

Feelings are contagious! Love is the most powerful experience we can share in our effort to understand God's purpose for creating us in His image and likeness. As you apply yourselves to this lesson do not measure your effectiveness by how much love you receive, but trust God to fulfill His purpose in your giving and forgiving and you will never be disappointed.

Real growth in a Christian life requires that we "Stay in a state of becoming." Jesus knows your heart! Never give up understanding and obeying the Word of God.

III. Application Questions - Romans 12:10 (KJV):

- 1) Discuss your understanding of this scripture with examples of how it is applicable to home and family, church, job, and the community.
- 2) How does this scripture embody or apply to the kind of love we should exhibit as Christians?
- 3) Discuss and define key words in this scripture.
- 4) Give examples of Philadelphia love and Agape love that we should exercise in our daily walk as Christians.

IV. Assignment

Reflect on this lesson and what was discussed in the groups and/or through your reading or further reading (s)/cross-referencing

1) *Introduce concepts of Christian Journaling**:

- *Christian Journaling – A form of worship and meditation*

Writing can be a wonderful way of expressing our thoughts and an excellent compliment to our daily or weekly devotionals to God. Journaling can be looked upon as a form of worship. Choose a quiet place where you can briefly meditate and then begin concentrating and exploring the blessing of writing from your heart to God. Don't hesitate if you feel that you are not the "best" writer - you don't have to be – it's all about the passion for God in your heart. Journaling is a powerful way to record all the wonderful things that God has done in your life as well as your fears, thoughts and prayers.

* **Christian journaling:** a daily record of ones prayers and meditations with God that provides an opportunity for measuring spiritual growth.

- 2) *At home* - begin to journal your thoughts as they relate to Romans 12:10:
Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love; in honor giving preference to one another. (New King James Version)

3) *Journaling Format*

- Use whatever journaling format you are comfortable with. This can be as simple or as complex as you would like it to be. For example, choose a pretty bound book to write in or a spiral notebook or folder. Each time you journal, be sure to date your entries. This way you will be able to chart your spiritual growth in the Lord and in His Word.
- Those who would like to should be encouraged to share their first journaling experience with the group at the next meeting.
(Remember what you write is personal – unless you don't want it to be)

PRAYER:

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
2080 West Grand Boulevard
Detroit, Michigan 48208
Nathan Johnson, Senior Pastor
Copyright Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church

INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE: Instructional Information Sheet

The Instructor As Facilitator: Effective Facilitative Techniques

- **Know and understand your audience.**
- **Affirm and value diversity.**
- **Recognize the rich experiences that each learner/participant brings to the learning.**
- **Set the tone, build interest, and communicate high expectations.**
- **Avoid lecturing; it will never lead to meaningful learning. Make sure it is reciprocal interaction; adding questions, allowing input.**
- **Use multiple instructional methods and techniques in recognition of adult learners and different learning styles.**
- **Engage participants in learning through activities.**
- **Foster development of a cooperative (working together) and collaborative (sharing ideas) learning environment.**
- **Make available the widest range of resources.**
- **Structure and encourage time for reflection and application.**
- **Become a participant learner.**
- **Never impose your views or strong feelings on the group/audience.**
- **Remain alert to expressions of deep or strong feelings.**
- **Accept your limitations as a facilitator.**
- **Remember that the word “facilitate” means “to make easier”.**
- **The participants may express their opinions or prejudices, but bring them back to the Scripture.**
- **When they get off track, find ways to bring them back to the lesson.**

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
2080 West Grand Boulevard
Detroit, Michigan 48208
Nathan Johnson, Senior Pastor
Copyright Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church

INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE:

INPUT AND MODELING STRATEGIES (Interactive Teaching Activities)

1. Think/Pair/ Share – Provide a specific question, issue or vocabulary word. Allow a short wait time. Have participants discuss the information in pairs. In addition to discussion, students can engage in other types of thinking: reaching consensus on an issue, problem solving or arguing an opposing position (Definitions).
2. Hook and Hold Strategy – Use provocative questions, a startling or unexpected statement, or a short story to “hook” participants into the material and then hold their attention and interest (Introduction).
3. History Memory Bubble – Enables the participant to search for connections and relationships in information as they study that emphasizes problem/solution relationships in history. Have participants identify terms or facts and analyze them in terms of their connection to a problem/solution (Background Information).
4. Concept Mapping – Use a visual representation of concepts and Scriptures that expand understanding of concepts, Scriptures, and vocabulary beyond simple definitions (Content).
5. Three-Minute Pause – Participants engage in three modes of thinking: summarizing what they have learned, identifying interesting aspects or what they already know, and raising questions about what they find confusing or do not understand. Participants will choose partners or “learning buddies”. When a three –Minute pause is called, either partner A or B is selected to relate the three modes of thinking listed above (Summary).