

Love in the Family of God

Word

Scripture Reference

Romans 12:9-13

Discussion Questions

1. What are the things you are willing to do for your family because of love?
2. Read Romans 12:9-13 and John 13:34-35. In the book of John, Jesus Christ tells believers that what would distinguish us as His disciples and what would make us effective witnesses to the world is how we demonstrate love for each other. This is a challenge for us—to raise the quality of our love in the church, a love superior to that which is seen in the society we live in. The early church was known for the superior quality of its love. How is love being shown in your church? Share how you feel loved by your fellow Christians.
3. In the passage, Paul describes the kind of love that ought to be seen in the family of God:
 - a. **Love in God's family is motivated by pure intentions (v. 9).** Once put under the test of God's scrutiny, our love must be devoid of any ill-intentions or self-interest. What self-interests could happen in a church setting? On the other hand, what things have you observed that are devoid of self-interests among the children of God? Why is it possible to love without hypocrisy?
 - b. **Love in God's family pursues Christ-likeness (v. 9).** "Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good." Biblical love is one that leads to holiness. It does not delight in sin. Read Philippians 1:9-11. What was Paul's prayer for the believers in Philippi? How does being anchored in biblical knowledge lead you to holiness? Discuss how love in the family of God seeks the highest good of others. How is it even possible?
 - c. **Love in God's family is devoted (v. 10).** "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love" (NIV). This kind of love is one that is committed. It

doesn't easily let go. Discuss when you find it pretty difficult to love a fellow Christian. Do you easily give up on that brother or sister in the Lord when he or she is hard to love? Discuss how Christians can show devotion to one another.

- d. **Love in God's family put the needs of others first (v. 10b).** "...in honor giving preference to one another." When we are so wrapped up in our own needs, we fail to see how we actually can minister to others. Discuss why this command is quite difficult to obey? How have you met the need of another person in your church? What made it possible for you to do it?
- e. **Love in God's family persevered in ministry (v. 11, 12, 13).** How can you show your love for one another according to these verses? What do you think will be the result if Christians keep doing them?

Walk

- The love that we show to one another in the church is what attracts people to Jesus. People want to see real love. Is real love being manifested in your life?
- Love in the family of God is not focused on the self, but reaches out to others. Could you—or have you made a commitment to go beyond yourself?
- Love in the family of God is manifested in active service. What ministry is available in your church for you to get involved with so you can help draw people to Jesus Christ?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, loving one another is a tall order because it involves giving part of me, sometimes sacrificially, for the sake of another that may not be easy to love. But You have commanded me as Your child to love my fellow believers in a way that may be very hard for me. But thank You, because I acknowledge that it is possible to do so because Your grace is sufficient. I may not have the heart or ability to do it, but with Your help, I know I can. Lord, help me to be patient, fervent in spirit as I serve You. Help me to rejoice in hope, patient in tribulation and to continue to be steadfast in prayer. Help me to be willing to meet the needs of others. And that I would do them for Your glory! In Jesus' name. Amen.