

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

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

As the time for Jesus was nearing for Him to go to the cross and then leave this earth, He said to His Disciples, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." What does this love look like? Philippians 2:3-4 describes what this lifestyle looks like, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." And, Peter writes, ". . . all of you, be like-minded (in harmony with one another), be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called . . ."

Put your love in action! Remember, this is the title in my Bible for Romans 12:9 and the verses that follow, including today's devotional verse, verse 10, "Be devoted to one another in love." These words are addressed to you. They focus on your relationship with your sisters and brothers in Christ (the one body.) "Devoted" pertains to showing deep love and affection for those to whom you are closely related. As a Christian, through Jesus, you are closely related to all who like you are true believers in Jesus. Peter describes doing this like putting on clothing. . . "clothe yourselves with humility toward one another." (1 Peter 5:5)

In the context of loving one another, St. Paul writes in Ephesians 4:2-3 "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." The love Paul writes about here in Ephesians is a love a sister has for her sister or a brother for his brother. It is like applying glue to two boards to join them together. Once the glue sets, it is impossible to separate them apart. This is the love the Holy Spirit creates in the heart of a Christian for a fellow Christian.

Prayer: Lord, fill my heart with love for my sisters and brothers in Christ. In His name. Amen.

Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;

The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.

When here our pathways part, We suffer bitter pain;
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet again.

From sorrows, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign Through all eternity.
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