

“Fervently Love One Another”
I Peter 1:22
May 13, 2012
(Mother’s Day)

How do we love one another with fervency?

“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart.”

1. Be pure.
 - Pure soul.
 - Pure heart.

2. Be obedient.

3. Be sincere.

4. Be passionate.

Application:

1. Which of the four elements of loving one another is most often overlooked in your life? Ask the Lord for His help this week.
2. Thank the Lord for your mother and her love for you. Seek ways to love her with fervency.

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion
"Fervently Love One Another" I Peter 1:22
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1. In reflection of Mother's Day, what aspect of your mother's love do you most appreciate? Why? Read I Peter 1:22. What does it mean to have "purified your souls?" (Eph. 1:7; I John 1:9) What are some daily choices we can make that will either keep our souls pure or contaminate our ability to love one another? (Psalm 119:9; I John 3:14; Matt. 24:12)

2. What should be the distinctive mark of Christianity? (John 13:35) Discuss whether that has been true in your experience. In what ways have you felt love from other Christians recently? According to Peter, love must come out of a pure heart. (I Peter 1:22) How does God help us keep our hearts pure? (2 Peter 1:7; Rom. 5:5) What is our part? (Psalm 40:8; Prov. 4:23)

3. A mistake many people make is to think love is an emotion. Peter says we love out of "obedience to the truth." (1:22) Review the commands to "love one another" found in Scripture. (Rom. 12:10; I Thess. 4:19; I John 3:11; Phil. 1:9) If your mother only loved you when she felt like it, what would have happened? Discuss the "decision" to love one another and how that works in daily life.

4. Our love for one another needs to be sincere. (I Pet. 1:22; Rom. 12:9) The love he refers to is "brotherly love" or the Greek word –"phileo." Our love should never be phony or two-faced. Share a time when someone was phony with their love. What did you observe that revealed their true heart? Being genuine with your love begins by a focus on what we have in common. Read Eph. 4:3-6 to identify the commonness we have as Christians.

5. Our love must also be done with passion or "earnestly." (1:22) Peter now changes the Greek word to "agape." This is God's unselfish, sacrificial, giving love." This is only possible if what happens? (2 Cor. 5:14) How will we know if we are loving one another with earnestness? (I Peter 4:8; Eph. 4:32)

6. Take time to evaluate the four elements of loving one another. Which one needs work in your life? Ask the Lord to help you love as He has loved you. Let the love of Christ control your choices, your relationships and your conversations this week.