

**Being Transformed Regarding Your RELATIONSHIPS:
A GENUINE LOVE
(Romans 12:9-11)**

B. The Explanation of TRANSFORMATION in DISCERNING & DOING GOD’S WILL Regarding

1. YOURSELF ... a _____. (12:3)
2. Your LOCAL CHURCH ... a _____. (12:4-8)
3. Your RELATIONSHIPS ... a _____. (12:9-21)
 - a. The *instruction* of “let _____” ... headlines this passage. (12:9a)
 - b. The *importance* of “love” is underscored by its usage being stated over ____ times in the New Testament. (1 John 3:1-2, 16-18, 23, 4:7-11, 21)
 - c. The *insights* on “love” can be found by some biblical clarifications.
 - 1) *Prevalent misconceptions* about “love”:
 - a) The confusion of society. Our world tends to view love as a _____ or to equate it with _____. (Romans 13:11-14)
 - b) The confusion of Christendom. Many churches view love as _____ of false doctrine or sinful behavior, or with ecumenical _____. (Rom. 16:17-18)
 - 2) *The Greek words* for “love”:
 - a) “eros” – this Greek word refers to a physical, _____ intimacy. This word is not mentioned in the NT, though this sexual passion and desire is demonstrated in the Song of Solomon by King Solomon and Shulamite which express their love in very erotic ways and words and is a bonafide expression of marital commitment within the context of marriage. (Prov. 5:15-20; 1 Cor. 7:1-5)
 - b) “storge” – refers to a _____ toward another such as parents toward their children. A debased mind can result in a lack of this norm. (Rom. 1:31; 2 Tim. 3:3)
 - c) “philia / phileo” – refers to _____ love. This is a conditional and reciprocal love involving compatibility, mutual response, etc. This is love IF or BECAUSE OF. (John 15:13-14, 16:27)
 - d) “agape / agapao”

3) **The meaning of agape love** - Agape love (when used in reference to God or the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life) is the _____ that _____ to do what is best for another in light of eternity no matter what it _____ me. Agape love is the kind of sacrificial love that _____ has demonstrated toward us and we are to demonstrate to others. (Jn.3:16; Rom. 5:8; Gal. 5:13)

4) **The source of agape love** in the yielded believer is the _____ (Gal.5:22) and the **standard of agape love** is the _____ (Phil.1:9-11) and the **example of agape love** is _____. (1 John 4:9-10; Eph. 5:25)

- Why is this important to understand? Because you can agape love someone even when you don't _____ like it! (Matt. 5:43-44) Agape love involves your attitude and choices with divine guidance & enablement.
- Why is agape love important to practice? Because agape love is _____ when serving others, exercising spiritual gifts, and in personal relationships.

d. The ingredients of "love". (12:9)

1) **It is to be _____.** (12:9a) The words "without hypocrisy" (anupokritos) means unfeigned, genuine, real, sincere. This implies that there is a tendency to be phony when it comes to showing love. (2 Corinthians 6:6; 1 Peter 1:22)

2) **It is to be _____ and _____.** (12:9b) Negatively, genuine love abhors or hates that which is evil. (Psalm 97:10) Positively, genuine love cleaves itself to that which is good. (Phil.1:9-11)

e. The implementation of "love". (12:10-11)

1) **HORIZONTALLY to other Believers.** (12:10) By being _____ one to another with _____. This refers to a genuine love for other believers in the _____ of God. This implies that we have contact and relationships with each other. These relationships are to involve honoring and treating with _____ someone whether they deserve it or not.

2) **VERTICALLY to the Lord.** (12:11) By remembering you are "_____ the Lord".

What does this practically mean? The key to the horizontal is the _____.

Where does this practically apply?

a) _____ - we are not to be lagging in diligence with our love.

b) _____ - we are to be fervent in spirit in our love.

- How does this apply to you?