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“Love is not the means by which the gift is exercised; rather, the gift is the means by which love is exercised.”

- ❖ **Love should be identified within the Heart**
- ❖ **Love should be identified within the Church**
- ❖ **Love should be identified within the Community**

Rom 12:9-21

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
NKJV

❖ Love should be identified within the heart

Agape—giving expecting nothing in return

Eros or Erotic—**always expecting a return**

Filos—(Philos)to like, be fond of, regard with affection, as a friend,
Titus 2:4

Storge-- mutual love of parents and children

**Pretended love is a hypocritical love,
and that is no love at all.**

Rom 12:9

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

2 Cor 6:3-10

3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. 4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; 5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; 6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in **sincere love**; 7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; 8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; 9 known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; 10 sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

NIV

1 Cor 13

13:1 Love is the Greatest Gift

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And

though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

NKJV

Rom 12:10

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

In love of the brethren be tenderly affectioned one to another; in honor preferring one another;

In love of the brethren (filadelfia). A late word for brotherly love

Tenderly affectioned (filostorgoi). An old compound adjective **from** *filos* and storgee (mutual love of parents and children).

Agape is in the center of Charis

1 Thes 4:9-12

But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, **for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;**
10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; 11 that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, Rom. 12:11

11not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
Lagging (Slothful). An old adjective, to hesitate, to be slow. Slow and "poky" as in Matt 25:26.

❖ Love should be identified within the church

Rom. 12:13-16

"Distributing to the necessities of the saints"

❖ Love should be identified outside the church

Rom. 12:17-21

"Recompense to no man"

"Live peaceably with all men"

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