

When sin entered this world, its immediate effect was to damage relationships. Adam and Eve were instantly separated from the God whose fellowship they had formerly enjoyed. Sin always damages relationships. [Genesis 2:18-25, 3:6-8](#)

The whole scope of the Bible is to show us how we can and should love God with our total being and love one another as we in fact love ourselves [Matthew. 22:37-40](#).

To love God, we must first understand that He first loved us [Romans 5:8](#)

God offers a full pardon and complete justification as a gift to all who will believe in Jesus Christ [Romans. 3:21-26](#)

One of the most practical tests of whether Christ is truly our Lord is seen in our relationships. [1 John 4:19-20](#)

The apostle John also says that our love for one another is evidence that we have been born again [1 John 3:14](#)

John goes on to say that “He who does not love abides in death”. [1 Pet. 1:22-23](#)

The apostle Paul also puts a strong emphasis on love in all of his letters. [1 Corinthians 12:4-8](#), [Romans. 12:9-10](#)

### **Sacrificial, transformed living calls us to love others sincerely.**

Verses 9-21 spell out in detail what God’s good, acceptable, and perfect will looks like in loving relationships.

Throughout the New Testament love is not an uncontrollable feeling that comes over you every once in a while, rather, it is a commandment to be obeyed. [John 13:34](#).

The supreme demonstration of Jesus’ love was when He went to the cross and bore God’s wrath on our behalf. He didn’t do that because He just felt an impulsive urge to do something nice for us. He did it in obedience to the will of the Father. [John 4:34](#), [Luke 2:49](#)

The first fruit that results from walking in the Spirit is love [Galatians. 5:16, 22-23](#)

In our text, Paul spells out four aspects of biblical love:

#### **1. Biblical love must be without hypocrisy (12:9a)**

Paul would not have written that unless he knew that there was and is a strong tendency, even among believers, to put a mask on love that covers the hearts that’s full of selfishness, jealousy, manipulation, and even hatred. [1 John 3:15-18](#)

Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss Outwardly, it looked as if he really cared for Jesus, but in reality, he was giving Jesus over to bloodthirsty men who would torture and kill Him [Luke 22:48](#).

#### **2. Biblical love must be holy (12:9b)**

The opposite of abhorring what is evil is to “cling to what is good.” The verb, “cling to,” literally, is to be “glued to.” [Philippians 4:8](#)

#### **3. Biblical love must be brotherly (12:10a)**

In respect to the love of our Christian brothers and sisters, we are to be marked by a devotion that is characteristic of a loving, close-knit, and mutually supportive family.” [1 Peter 3:8](#)

#### **4. Biblical love must be selflessly humble (12:10b)** We should not over-estimate ourselves and underestimate others. As Paul says [1Corinthians. 15:10](#), [Galatians. 2:11-14](#)