

A Life of Love

Today's passage contains fourteen exhortations. Most scholars agree that the first one in verse 9 serves as a banner over all the rest: "Let love be without hypocrisy." The following thirteen commands explain the type of life that is compatible with genuine love – love for God and love for others. As we go through this passage pay attention to the specific command(s) that grabs your attention. It might be overwhelming to try to grow in all of these things at once and so hopefully God will lead each of us to focus on the one or two things that matters most in our lives right now.

Opening Question: Where do you find your capacity to love being most challenged these days?

Read Romans 12:9-13

1. Steve mentioned that the first command, "Let love be without hypocrisy" (NIV = "Love must be sincere") is a banner over all of the other commands in these verses. Can you see how all that Paul says in these verses hangs together under the banner of love?
2. Why might Paul be focusing on the topic of love right after talking about spiritual gifts in 12:3-8?
3. In what ways could love be hypocritical or insincere (v. 9)?

