

Be Devoted To One Another

Opener: Who or what would you say you're devoted to?

Scripture: Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:9-13

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. I Peter 4:9

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings. Romans 16:16

Discussion Questions

1. In Romans 12:9 Paul writes, "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good." To better understand what that looks like, let's consider how we can do the opposite. What does insincere love look like? What can we love what is evil? How do we cling to what is bad?
2. Romans 12:10 encourages us to "be devoted to one another in love." Being devoted to someone means you are extremely loving, loyal, and dedicated to them. How has that played out in your experience? Can you give examples?
3. The truth is, everyone needs back up. How does being devoted to others meet that need? Why is being devoted to others important to building strong relationships? Romans 12:10
4. What are some potential challenges that could make it difficult to be fully devoted to others? How can we be devoted to others and also maintain healthy personal boundaries? In other words, how can we guard against neglecting our own wellbeing while being devoted to others?
5. Romans 12:10 concludes by saying, "Honor one another above yourselves." What is "honor" in this context? Is it the same as being devoted to others? Are there people we should not honor? Why or why not?
6. Romans 12:13 and I Peter 4:9 tell us to practice hospitality and to do it without grumbling. How can we practice hospitality? Does it always mean having someone in your home or hosting a party? What keeps us from being hospitable or grumbling when we do it?
7. Roman 16:16 tells us to greet one another with a holy kiss. Without getting hung up on giving out holy kisses, think about what it means to greet someone warmly! What part does greeting play in establishing and building relationships? How can greeting alleviate rejection and make someone feel welcome? If Christ left heaven to welcome sinners like us, then why do we have problems with crossing the church foyer to welcome difficult saints?

Wrap Up: True holiness starts with inviting God into our life, but it is fully expressed in community. That's why, again and again, the NT describes the authentically holy life with two simple words: "one another." The one-anothers, including being devoted to one another and greeting one another, are nothing less than the life of Christ at work in us. They're earthly dramas of heavenly realities—they're quite literally the love of Christ played out on a trillion stages.