

Genuine Love
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Let love be genuine... Romans 12:9

Romans 12:9 begins with the words, "Let love be genuine." The next several verses go on to describe what "genuine love" looks like. At its core, genuine love is rooted in sacrifice. Love serves others, shows hospitality, and contributes to those in need. Love is patient, humble, and prays for others. We have received perfect, genuine, sacrificial love in Jesus, who gave up His life for us sinners. Love at its core is sacrifice!

As forgiven and redeemed children of God, we now get to show sacrificial love to others. We love our neighbors, our family, our friends, people we run into on the street, and even our enemies. We love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19).

Remember, love at its core is sacrifice! Sometimes when we hear the word sacrifice, our mind quickly jumps to other words like suffering, surrender, or even inconvenience. In other words, we sometimes assume sacrificial love is going to be difficult, depressing, and joyless. There's no doubt that sometimes sacrificial love is hard. Just ask Jesus! But sacrificial love is never joyless. Just ask Jesus!

In Romans 12, Paul twice tells us to rejoice. Jesus endured the cross because of the joy set before Him (Heb. 12:2). Sharing sacrificial love is beautiful, fulfilling, and joyful. Is it sometimes hard? Yes! Does my sinful nature tell me it's not worth it? Yes! Can it be exhausting? Yes! However, showing sacrificial love is one of the most fulfilling and joyful things I have ever done in my life. I don't do it nearly enough.

Love at its core is sacrifice. But sacrificial love is fulfilling, beautiful, and joyful!