



I, "Groom", take you "Bride", to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish; from this day forward until death do us part.

These vows are so short, but so large in scope. You are taking these vows in the sight of God and man. They mean a lot, but they are also pretty vague. At this point, they are without application. At this point, marriage vows are a general profession of love and devotion, but you have not had to apply that to any specific instances in marriage yet.

A similar thing is happening in the passage we are looking at today. These verses start out with a general command. "Let love be without dissimulation." Let love be genuine; let love be without hypocrisy. Like the marriage vows, this command is a general command that at this point is without specific application of that command. Love is the umbrella that covers all things.

To show genuine, un-hypocritical love you must hate evil and respond to the people who commit it with good.

Let's consider some ways that genuine love affects and guides your actions.

I. Genuine love affects your heart towards things that can change it. (9) Sin will change your heart. It will harden it. Paul starts out with a very general application of love at first.

A. A loving heart hates wicked things.

Does your genuine love for others cause you to hate evil in their life? True love hates wicked things and it can't stand to see it in the lives of others.

B. A loving heart holds tight to good things.

The Greek word comes from a verb that means "to glue or join together."

II. Genuine Love affects your heart towards those who are close to it. (10,13)

To summarize, genuine love needs to be evident in our close relationships. We need to show love to those who it is easy to show love to.

A. A loving heart honors selflessly.

"in honour preferring one another" - Literally, "outdo one another in showing honor." Its a contest.

B. A loving heart gives willingly.

III. Genuine love affects your heart towards those who crush it. (14, 17-21)

We are to love those who it is hard to love. We are to love those who persecute us. How?

A. A loving heart does not seek revenge. (14, 17, 19)

B. A loving heart seeks peace and reconciliation.

To show genuine, un-hypocritical love you must hate evil and respond to the people who commit it with good. There is no way that Paul could write out every instance in which we need to demonstrate love. Just as a couple's marriage vows cannot possibly cover every circumstance in which they have to be lived out. The overarching principle is love. Genuine love affects your attitude toward sin, towards those close to you, and towards those that oppose you. Let's get to the place where our natural response through the Spirit is to show kindness. Know what God says. Love is hard work. God showed His love to us by sending His Son to die for us on the cross. True, genuine, un-hypocritical love is hard. It takes a lot of work, but doing so will allow you to overcome evil with good.