What Does Love Look Like?
Romans 12:9-13

Introduction

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
John 13:35

In Romans 12, Paul gives us a picture of what love looks like in the church (verses 9-13) and in the world (verses 14-21).

I. Love is primary. Romans 12:9a

Paul stresses the importance of love in two ways.

• By its placement in this chapter. It follows his teaching on spiritual gifts just like I Corinthians 13. It doesn’t matter how gifted a person is, if we don’t have love it profits nothing.

• By its heading, “Love must be sincere.” It stands like a banner over what follows. We are to love without pretending or play acting.
II. Love is pure. Romans 12:9b
Love is pure because that’s what God is. God is love and God is light.

If we love God, we will hate sin and be drawn to what is good. Do you see that happening in your life?

III. Love is committed. Romans 12:10
Paul describes that commitment in two ways:
• “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.”
• “Honor one another above yourselves.”

One of the marks of a healthy church is warm fellowship and caring relationships. Every one of us has a responsibility to make that happen.

IV. Love is zealous. Romans 12:11
“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor.”
Keep the fire burning!

God is not pleased by spiritual apathy or laziness. Revelations 2:4 and 3:15-16
“Fan into flame the gift of God that is within you.” II Timothy 1:6
We need one another to keep the fire burning.
V. Love is steadfast. Romans 12:12

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer.”

How do we handle trials in our life? Paul says this is what love looks like under pressure.

VI. Love is generous. Romans 12:13

Love shares with God’s people who are in need.

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” I John 3:16-18

“Practice hospitality.” Open your heart and home to others.

Conclusion

Love isn’t just an emotion or something we say. Love is shown in the way we live.
Love is pure.
Love is committed.
Love is zealous.
Love is steadfast.
Love is generous.