

LOVE (_____, _____) MUST BE SINCERE ~ Pt. 1

OPENING QUESTION: What is Church supposed to be like?

TODAY'S KEY VERSE: Love must be sincere! Romans 12:9

SERIES QUESTION: Why me?

SERIES THEME: To discover, understand, and be confident in our God-given purpose for life

My God-given purpose is _____!

TODAY'S THEME: I need to love and be loved ... sincerely

TODAY'S TEXT: Romans 12:3-9

▶ The word "sincere" literally means without _____.

- Love must be genuine. (RSV)
- Don't pretend that you love others, really love them. (LB)
- Don't fake it! (M)

▶ Jesus' harshest words were directed at the religious hypocrites and frauds.

> As the followers of Jesus we are called to live and love a sincere and genuine faith.

(See Acts 2:46; I Cor. 5:8; II Cor. 1:12, 2:17, 6:6*, 11:3; Eph. 6:5; Col. 3:22; I Tim. 1:5, 3:8; II Tim. 1:5; Heb. 10:22; James 3:17; I Peter 1:22*)

TODAY'S QUESTION: How can love be sincere?

I. EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT LOVE IS THE _____

> Sincere, genuine, real love is what this world needs!

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Question → Do we really need more government, laws, police, armies, guns, drugs, hospitals -- or do we need more love?

▶ Everybody knows the answer but we just don't understand the _____.

Question → Why does this world constantly miss it? Why can't we do this?

TODAY'S QUESTION: How can love be sincere?

II. EVERYBODY'S PROBLEM IS _____

▶ "Love must be sincere" wasn't just thrown into the Bible!
> God isn't just telling us what we already know.
> The Holy Spirit isn't using Paul's words to _____ us.

▶ The Word tells us the problem and the solution.
• Romans 3:22b, 23
> The book of Romans clearly tells us the problem is sin.

▶ We are _____ because we consistently fail to sincerely love in the way we all know that we should!

Love is not _____, but sin is!
See ch. 1 – the proud heart that turns love into all kinds of perversion.

Love is not _____, but sin is!
See ch. 2 - the heart that judges others for the sin we excuse in ourselves.

Love is not _____, but sin is!
See ch. 3 – the religious heart that can never please God.

Love never _____, but sin does!
See ch. 5 & 6 – the heart that Jesus sets free from sins' slavery.

Love never _____, but sin is constant condemnation!
See ch. 7 & 8 – the condemned heart is set free (7:24; 8:1,2).

Love heals, sin _____!
Romans 8 – the suffering heart is comforted by the Spirit.

Love welcomes, sin _____!
Romans 8 – the lonely heart is embraced in the love of Christ.
• 8:35, 37-39

Question → *Isn't this what we need? Isn't this the love we long for?*

TODAY'S QUESTION: How can love be sincere?

III. _____ SIN MUST BE THE PROBLEM

Question → *Are we serious about our faith and sincere about our love?*

- ▶ Before I can love sincerely, I need to take a serious and sincere look at my own heart! • 12:3
- ▶ Sincere (genuine, fake-free) love is God's glorious ideal for my life. But I have sinned and fallen short of His purpose.
 - > My sin is proud, judgmental, self-righteous, enslaving, condemning, hurting, suffering, and separating.

TODAY'S QUESTION: How can love be sincere?

IV. _____ MUST BE MY ANSWER TO MY SIN

▶ OUR SINCERE FAITH IN THE LOVE OF JESUS SETS US FREE FROM OUR SLAVERY TO SIN!

- ▶ Romans 3:22b,3 & 8:1-3 are true for you and me!

Question → *Is there any hope that we can love sincerely?*

- Romans 5:1,2, 5

CONCLUDING QUESTION: How can love be sincere?

- ▶ It begins with me!

I AGREE THAT SINCERE LOVE IS GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME!

MY PRAYER

Jesus, please forgive my sin of insincere and fake love.

I have been proud, judgmental, and self-righteous.

I've been a slave to my sin.

I have lived with condemnation and condemned others.

In my pain, I have caused pain.

I long for your love to be poured out more in my life.

I receive your love!

Jesus, help me to sincerely love

_____!

In Jesus Name, AMEN.