



Sermon
Rev. Lang Yang

“Sincere Love”

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
St. Paul Lutheran Church – Caro Michigan
9-3-17

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Romans 12:9 “*Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.*” This is the word of God. (Cross reference – Deuteronomy 14:2, Psalm 6:13, Romans 6:13, 16; 15:16, 1 Corinthians 1:10; 6:20, 2 Corinthians 10:1, Ephesians 4:1, Philemon 1:9-10)

Illustration: “Love?” (Show talking about love?)



One of the Hmong men told me at a Valentine’s work shop that I was a guest speaker. He told me that he can’t say the word “I love you” to his wife. I asked him why? With a grin on his face, he then said, “Pastor, we Hmong men just don’t show affection by saying ‘I love you’ to our wife. We are shy. Since we have a full house of children then that is love.” He had a big smile on his face as he said it. You will notice that not many Asian men and women tend to show affectionist on public because expressing love to their spouse is different way than the caucasian do.

The word “Love” is probably the most overused and abused word in the human language. We love everything from pets, new carpet, milk chocolate, perfume to flowers. We love it all. Yet, even though the word “love” gets used a lot and most of us realize that real love is not common at all. Lawsuits, divorce, flirting, feel good relationships is also fall under the categories of love.

I. What is real Love? (Show what is love)

**WHAT
IS
LOVE?**

It’s something that you do from the bottom of your heart and meant it. The Apostle Paul wrote: “*Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.*” (Romans 12:9) We are to be honest by our love to others. Sometime we said to our spouse ‘I love you’ without really meant it. We just go through the motion. Love is no pretense. If we pretend then that is evil.

We are to cling to what is good. The Apostle Peter write, “*Be holy because, I am holy.*” (1 Peter 1:16) Our Lord’s want us to be a holy just as He was. (Show motives)



But our sinful nature will tempt us to go in the opposite direction when it come to love. Most of the time we want to show our fake love to others instead of a sincere love. Instead our motives is to gain the other person favor by pretending that we care for them, love them, and even doing extra favor so they would be on our side. (Show sincere love by serving others)



But True love doesn't wait until necessity but demands an action. Love causes us to immediately identify with our love Ones. And we identify with them readily and easily because we are in the same family. True love doesn't take opportunities to present it self. True love seeks out opportunities to help others in our actions by serving others. When love takes hold, you don't have to be told! You do it then Love becomes sincere.

- II. Christ wants our love for each other because He first love us. Going out of our way to find out the needs of others and doing what we can to fulfill those needs. Many people want to serve Jesus. (Show love in action)



Many want to express their love for others in word but never show in action. Many want to serve each other and demonstrate that love is in action and not just merely saying. It takes a hand to get the action going and hands that may need to get dirty. Jesus said *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was*

sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to visit me. And in Vs. 40 'tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.'" (Matthew 25:35-36) Jesus wants us to have a sincere love and put this love into action. He did not say I was a stranger and you sent me on my way. He did not say I was thirsty and you prayed for me and told me to keep the faith. He did not say I was in prison and you sympathized with me. Christ want us to have a sincere love in word and deeds. (Show picture of June 1938: US military attach Captain E.F. Carlson, Canadian medical missionary Dr. Richard Brown and Canadian Dr. Norman Bethune)



Dr. Richard F. Brown is a Canadian medical missionary who, when his station was taken by the Japanese, started traveling through the provinces of Shensi and Shansi, traveling a thousand miles on foot. He has ministered to all sorts and conditions from the foremost leaders of Communist China to humble peasants, soldiers, and civilians—Chinese and Japanese without distinction. At times he has walked

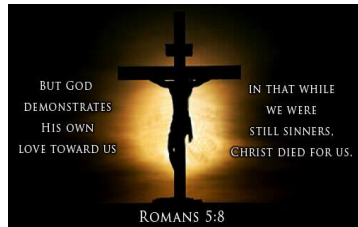
thirty miles a day, working along the road from dawn to dusk. In one district alone, within a radius of three miles, were 1,400 sick and wounded and neither doctors nor supplies. He said, "I was awakened every morning by the sick and wounded pulling at my bedclothes, but you get used to it." It was to Dr. Brown that Chub Teh, the Communist general, expressed his gratitude for the help rendered China by medical missionaries, declaring his wish to cooperate with them.—*Sunday School Times*. (Show love flow from God to the believer and to others) Love take action. You do it with sincere love.



Brother and sisters in Christ Jesus, do you have a sincere love for other? What does this mean? It mean that you inviting someone out to eat at a nice restaurant who can't return the

favor. It means that letting someone play the game when they are not very good at it and it might mean losing the game by allowing them to win. It means adjusting your schedule by putting something off you need to get done, so you can help someone else get something done. It means being friendly to someone who's not popular. You may have done all these and go unnoticed or not even a thank you. But this is a sincere love that you have flow from God's to you as a believer than from you to other people. Through your action, it shows sincere love.

- III. God loved us sinful human being so much that by sending His Son Jesus Christ to redeem us a lost sinner that is destined to be condemned forever. (Romans 5:8)



This is what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote to the Christians in Rome, he said, *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:8) This love comes from God. He did not just promise to save us but show us by going to the cross. The Apostle John write, *"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life*

for his friends." (John 15:13) Christ went to the cross for you and me because of His sincere love that he didn't want you to be a lost sinner. There His blood washed away all your sin and you are made righteous with God. (Show God is Love)



There is one Doctrine universally accepted among different denominations. It is so basic that no one can miss it. **"God is Love."** God is just and faithful to us. We are to love God above all things and let him be the #1 in our lives. Jesus said *"Love the lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* (Matthew 22:37, 39)

To love our neighbor as we love ourselves is simply by saying 'we want others do unto us as we do unto them.' We can have a honest sincere love when we Love faithfully, we humble our self, we be diligent, be helpful, be open, be kind, have compassion and perseverance. (Show faith, hope, and love)



As St. Paul write, *"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."* (1 Corinthians 13:13) Brothers and sisters in Christ, we can accomplish this because God's first love us. Because of God's grace, mercy and love in Christ we have forgiveness. The only thing that left for us to do is to have a sincere love in word and deed that will bring honor and glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Children Message

“The Real Thing”

Romans 12:9 *“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.”*

Objects Lesson: Magnet, metal, aluminum, and a piece of wood. (other metal - nails etc.)

There are others aluminum that look like metal and sometimes it is difficult to tell the difference. One way to find out if a metal is true then it will stick to a magnet. Aluminum and a piece of wood will not stick to the magnet but other metals like nails will stick to the magnet.

Let's use the magnet and see if it will stick to the metal. See how the magnet attracts these nails and others metals - these items stick to the magnet so we know they are the real thing. Now let's test this aluminum that look just like the metal but it doesn't stick. See, it will not stick to the magnet. Let's try with the pieces of wood. It will not stick either. Metal is metal, aluminum is aluminum, and wood is wood. When using magnet, it will only stick to metal. Aluminum and wood will not.

In the Bible God's word said, *“Love must be sincere....”* (12:9). This means that love must be sincere to be the real thing. Like the metal, it must be real metal to stick to magnet. It cannot be others thing and pretend that it will stick to the metal. In a similar way, love has to be the real thing. It cannot just be a pretend thing. If you pretend then that is evil. When you say you love a person it must be real or it is a lie. So when you say you love someone, you mean it. But the real love comes from God. We receive His love because God's first love us and it is the real thing. Jesus love us so much that he willingly went to the cross for our sin. During his life, he show us love by helping and caring for others. We can do the same by sharing that love with others. Sincere love allows us to *“...Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.”* (12:9) Let us show our real love to others.

Pray: Dear God, Let us have a sincere love for other and that is the real thing and not just pretending. Thank you for loving us. In Jesus name. Amen.