

Introduction

1. What is love?
 - a. Some misconceptions
 - i. Love is love
 - ii. Tolerance of any lifestyle
 - iii. Emotion only
 - b. So, what *is* love?
2. In [Rm. 12:9](#), we discover an interesting passage that answers this question
 - a. Not just any love, it is “the love unfeigned”
 - b. “The love unfeigned: abhorring the evil; cleaving to the good;” ([Rm. 12:9](#) Young’s Literal Translation)

The Love Unfeigned

1. “Love” translates the Greek word: *agape* G26
 - a. This word occurs 116 times in the New Testament
 - b. *agape* in [Rm. 12:9](#) is preceded by the definite article *ho* G3588, so literally translated it is, “the love”
2. “Unfeigned” translates the Greek word: *anypokritos* G505
 - a. This word occurs only six times in the New Testament
 - i. Four as “unfeigned” ([2 Cor. 6:6](#); [1 Tim. 1:5](#); [2 Tim. 1:5](#); [1 Pt. 1:22](#))
 - ii. One as “without dissimulation [to hide under a false appearance]” ([Rm. 12:9](#))
 - iii. One as “without hypocrisy” ([Jm. 3:17](#))
 - b. The meaning is evident from the above translations, “the love” is without hypocrisy, thus genuine or sincere
 - i. *anypokritos* is the negated form of *hupokrisis* meaning, “hypocrisy” or “play-acting”

Abhorring the Evil

1. “Abhorring” translates the Greek word: *apostygeo* G655
 - a. This is the only time it is used in the New Testament
 - b. Various lexicons give us these definitions:
 - i. “to dislike, abhor, have a horror of” (Thayer 68)
 - ii. “denotes ‘to shudder’ (*apo*, ‘from,’ here used intensively, *stugeo*, ‘to hate’) hence, ‘to abhor’ (Vine 299)
 - iii. “to detest utterly:—abhor” (Strong 15)
 - iv. “to have a vehement dislike for something, *hate strongly, abhor*” (BDAG 123)
 - v. “to have a strong dislike for someone or something, implying repulsion and desire for avoidance” (Louw-Nida 763)
 - c. The abhorring is directed toward “the evil” in the present tense, so we must do this now

2. “Evil” translates the Greek word: *poneros* G4190
 - a. This word occurs 78 times in the New Testament
 - b. *poneros* in [Rm. 12:9](#) is preceded by the definite article *ho* G3588 so literally translated it is, “the evil”
 - c. This word describes all that is contrary to good and thus God ([Heb. 3:12](#))
 - i. The devil is described as, “the evil one” with this word ([Mt. 5:37](#) ASV)
 - d. This word is sometimes translated as “wicked”, contrasted with “just” ([Mt. 13:49](#))
 - i. The devil is described as, “the wicked one” with this word ([Mt. 13:38-39](#))
3. The love unfeigned is shown in the abhorring of the evil
 - a. This concept was taught in the Old Testament ([Am. 5:15](#))
 - b. Jesus Christ behaved this way ([Heb. 1:9](#))
 - c. We must detest the false notions of love
 - i. Love is not love when it comes to sexual perversions ([1 Cor. 13:5](#); [Rm. 1:26-27](#))
 - ii. We cannot tolerate sinful lifestyles ([1 Cor. 5](#))

Cleaving to the Good

1. “Cleaving” translates the Greek word: *kollao* G2853
 - a. This word occurs eleven times in the New Testament
 - i. Six as “join” ([Lk. 15:15](#); [Acts 5:13](#), [8:29](#), [9:26](#); [1 Cor. 6:16-17](#))
 - ii. One as “cleaveth” ([Lk. 10:11](#))
 - iii. One as “keep company” ([Acts 10:28](#))
 - iv. One as “clave” ([Acts 17:34](#))
 - v. One as “cleave” ([Rm. 12:9](#))
 - vi. One as “reached” ([Rev. 18:5](#))
 - b. The general idea is to be glued or cemented together
 - i. Seen in the concept of marriage ([Mt. 19:5](#))
2. “Good” translates the Greek word: *agathos* G18
 - a. This word occurs 102 times in the New Testament
 - b. *agathos* in [Rm. 12:9](#) is preceded by the definite article *ho* G3588 so literally translated it is, “the good”
 - c. This word describes who God is ([Mt. 19:17](#))
 - d. This word describes the commandments and will of God ([Rm. 7:12](#), [12:2](#))
3. The love unfeigned is shown in the cleaving to the good
 - a. Our hand must cleave to the sword ([2 Sam. 23:9-10](#); [Eph. 6:17](#))
 - b. Cleave to good works and words ([Eph. 2:10](#), [4:28-29](#); [2 Tim. 3:16-17](#))

Conclusion

1. The love unfeigned is further described throughout [Rm. 12](#) and other passages of the Bible
2. Remember, love toward God is shown by obedience ([Jn. 14:15](#))