**What is Love?**

How do you define love?

How do *you* make love real?

How do *you* love people you dislike or hate?

“We know God loves us not because of the way [God] feels about us, but because of what [God] has done for us.” *Paul J. Achtemeier*

Romans 12:9-21 NIV *[NRSV]*

Love must be sincere. *[Let love be genuine]*

Hate what is evil;

cling to what is good.

Be devoted to one another in love. *[Love one another with mutual affection]*

Honor one another above yourselves. *[outdo one another in showing honor]*

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Be joyful in hope, *[Rejoice in hope]*

patient in affliction,

faithful in prayer. *[persevere in prayer]*

Share with the Lord’s people who are in need.

Practice hospitality. *[extend hospitality to strangers]*

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Rejoice with those who rejoice;

mourn with those who mourn. *[weep with those who weep]*

Live in harmony with one another.

Do not be proud, *[do not be haughty]*

but be willing to associate with people of low position.

Do not be conceited. *[do not claim to be wiser than you are]*

Do not repay anyone evil for evil.

Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

 *[but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all]*

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, *[Beloved, never avenge yourselves]*

but leave room for God’s wrath,

for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

On the contrary:

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

 if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” *Prov. 25:21,22*

Do not be overcome by evil,

but overcome evil with good.

“A Christian does not seek to “do” these things; rather a Christian is becoming this type of person.” *Art Ross and Martha M. Stevenson*