

# **Authentic Christians**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 12:9-21.

B. Topic: what the Christian life looks like when it is exposed to the world in which it lives.

## II. Let love be genuine.

A. The Christian life is not a matter of imitation, yet it must be a life of genuine love.

B. Genuine love is faithful.

1. Love is a balance—hating what is evil and holding to what is good.
2. We must love ourselves in a genuine way before we can love anyone else.
3. We must not learn to justify evil in our lives.

C. Genuine love is courteous.

D. Genuine love is available.

E. Genuine love is rejoicing and giving thanks.

1. It is not murmuring.
2. It is constantly dependent upon the Lord.

F. Genuine love is generous.

1. It recognizes that what it has received it can also give.
2. Its resources are abundant.

G. The tests of genuine love.

1. The test of genuine love is gentleness. (James 3:17)
2. The greatest test of genuine love is when it is rebuffed. We overcome evil with good.

H. Love does not have to be begged for because God is love and eager to give it.

I. We must be willing to forgo our kind of life so that we might be all that He has set forth. (II Corinthians 4)

**Application questions:**

1. Which characteristic of love stands out to you? Why?

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2. How is love tested to be true? Explain.

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3. What area of your life do you find your love the weakest? How can you apply this message in that particular area this week to mark out your Christian life?

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