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Romans 12:9, **“Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”**

I love scriptures that are so plain that no one should misunderstand what it means. This is one such verse. The word **“dissimulation”** means to be without hypocrisy or pretense. A pet peeve of mine is to be around people in which you do not know where they are coming from. You have no idea what it is they believe or what they stand for. Give me an up-front person anytime. Paul tells the Roman brethren to let their **“love”** (respect and caring) **“be without dissimulation”** (hypocrisy). He says this in the middle of instructing and admonishing them about the makeup of the church body (vs 5), getting along with others (vs 10), and being of **“the same mind”** (vs 16) toward each other.

There was much turmoil over past beliefs and many of those who now embraced the truths of Jesus Christ were being held in scrutiny by the church at Rome. Both Jew and Gentile were embracing the gospel and this was a good thing, but they all needed to be taught godly principles. A new commandment was given in John 13:34-35 concerning proper love, **“...That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”** And again we find James making this statement in James 2:8, **“If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:...”** One cannot love others for the cause of Christ without any pretense (dissimulation) if they love them and will care for them as they love and care for themselves. Romans 12:9 is as strong a statement of godly behavior as you will find. Paul competes this thought by saying we must hate (abhor) any and all things which are sinful (evil). We cannot accept anything ungodly into our lives by saying *“well, it won’t hurt anything.”* Yes! It will! We cannot **“cleave to that which is good”** if we are holding on to that which is evil. The Lord said, **“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the**

other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24). Let us cleave to the words of our Lord in John 15:9, “As the Father hath loved me, so have I love you: continue ye in my love.” Think About It!