

Gathering Question: What is your favorite love song of all time? What is there about the words of that song that catch your attention? Share with your group.

Be Devoted To One Another

We have returned to Romans 12 several times during this study to discover yet another plea for “one another” responsibility. In verse 10, Paul encourages his readers to be devoted to one another. Devotion is a fairly difficult word to define but we know it when we see it. We see it in the way good parents care for their children. We see it in good marriages. We see it in the way that grown children care for their elderly parents.

While it is true that one might be devoted to a cause or a job, devotion is more clearly seen and understood correctly in connection to human beings. It is interesting that Paul’s word for devotion here literally means “family love.” In fact, two different words for love are used in this verse. Literally Paul asked them to have family love for one another in a brotherly love kind of way. Devotion to Paul is all wrapped up in love.

If you are devoted to one another, if you have a real sense of family love towards others, then you live your life differently. You are concerned about the needs of those you love. You treasure them as members of your family. You willingly surrender yourself to their service. You are dedicated to doing the very best for them. You honor and respect those to whom you are devoted and you willingly share what you have.

There is intensity in active devotion that must not be missed. Devotion is an overwhelming desire for the good of other people. It is not just saying the word “love” but it is acting in a loving way consistently. It is everything Paul wrote about in the great love chapter, I Corinthians 13. It is resilient and it is dependable.

We are called by Paul to love intensely from our hearts. We are called to actively pursue a life of love. We are called to offer ourselves in service to others. We are called to family love! We are called to the same kind of devotion that brought Jesus to the earth to live here and die here. Being devoted to one another in brotherly love is a commitment that never has a stopping point.

Read: Romans 12:9-11; I Corinthians 13

Discuss:

1. Is there a difference between being devoted to a job or a cause and being devoted to one another? How are they different?
2. Which of the descriptions of love in I Corinthians 13 have to do with devotion?
3. Describe the ways in which Jesus is devoted to us. How is that devotion shown to us.