

Mission Statement: *to passionately serve GOD and to compassionately serve others—ALL to the glory of GOD!*

Today let's consider v. 14-16 and see the Christian's sphere of influence toward those in *society* and see how our *genuine love* is to be displayed or manifested.

Q: Does God see your Christian conduct manifesting itself in the form of genuine love?

I. It is manifested in _____ (v. 14)

The basic meaning of this word "*persecute*" is to pursue someone with the intent of doing them _____.

The word "*curse*" is a call for God's _____ upon them.

Q: How does your Christian love manifest itself?

Consider Christ's words: (Matthew 5:43-44; Luke 6:32-36)

Q: How often as Christians does our love look nothing different than the worlds?

Consider Christ as a perfect example: (Luke 23:34)

1 Peter 2:21-24 For even hereunto were ye called: because **Christ** also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow **His** steps: ²² **Who** did no sin, neither was guile found in **His** mouth: ²³ **Who**, when **He** was reviled, reviled not again; when **He** suffered, **He** threatened not; but committed **Himself** to **Him** that judgeth righteously: ²⁴ **Who His** own self bare our sins in **His** own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by **Whose** stripes ye were healed.

Genuine Christian love should manifest itself in our lives in a _____ way.

Genuine Christian love demands that we not only love with our actions but with our _____ also.

II. It is manifested in _____ (v. 15)

To "*rejoice with them that do rejoice*" is to set aside one's own situation and join in being genuinely happy for someone else receiving a blessing. We must personally enter into somebody else's joy as if it is your own.

This also is distinctively Christian behavior.

1 Corinthians 12:26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

"*...and weep with them that weep.*" – The idea here is a _____ compassion for some who is sorrowing and thus our action is to be as if the sorrow is our own.

Genuine Christian love for others will manifest itself by taking an honest _____ in the lives of others.

Q: How is my Christian love manifesting itself? Am I able to rejoice with those who are rejoicing? Do I weep with those who are weeping?

III. It is manifested in _____ (v. 16)

As applied to the Christian family toward each other: (Romans 15:5; Philippians 2:2)

As applied to the Christian family toward everyone it speaks of having a common mindset or opinion one toward another. As Christians we are called to place others in as high of regard as we place ourselves.

James 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons.

This mindset of thinking toward others as we think of ourselves is explained here in the remainder of the verse.

"*...condescend to men of low estate.*" – The word, "*condescend*" is to getting carried away with.

Matthew 11:29 Take **My** yoke upon you, and learn of **Me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Consider who the Bible considers "*low estate*" or lowly. (2 Cor. 10:1)

Matthew Henry – True love values grace in rags as well as in scarlet. A jewel is a jewel, though it lie in the dirt.

"*...Be not wise in your own conceits.*" –

Proverbs 26:12 Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

Being distinctly Christian flows out of a heart of genuine love and humility. These are essential in the Christian life.

What is my next step? (*Put off* sin – confession; *renew my mind* with Christ and His thoughts; *put on Christ* and His character)