

# *Transformed!*

## How God Renews the Lives of His People

# *Get Personal*

## Part 15: *Radical Love*

### A Note from Pastor Keith...

If there is one distinguishing characteristic of a transformed life, it is love. Jesus was absolutely clear on this:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

Love one another as HE has loved US? Wow! That’s quite a standard! But wait! It gets tougher. In the Great Commandment, Jesus explains that the love He’s talking about isn’t just a feeling; it’s an action:

Jesus replied, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)

The Apostle John also reminds us that love expresses itself in actions that flow from the heart:

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:18 (NIV)

Beginning in today’s passage, the Apostle Paul is going to give us a closer look at the characteristics of radical love. One word of encouragement as you explore this list: Allow yourself to be challenged!

## *Five Marks of Radical Love*

### 1. Radical Love is SINCERE.

<sup>9</sup>Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Romans 12:9 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup>Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

Romans 12:9 (NLT)

### 2. Radical Love is DEVOTED.

<sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:10 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup>Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

Romans 12:10 (NLT)

### *Get Personal!*

Let’s put our love for others to the test.

Real love is sincere—no pretense, no hidden delight in evil or resentment over good. So how are you doing? Which of your expressions of love falls short on the sincerity test?

Real love is devoted—so devoted in fact that it delights in honoring others. When was the last time you took delight in honoring someone else? When was the last time you struggled?

### 3. Radical Love is ZEALOUS.

<sup>11</sup>Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Romans 12:11 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup>Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.

Romans 12:11 (NLT)

### 4. Radical Love is PATIENT.

<sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup>Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

Romans 12:12 (NLT)

### 5. Radical Love is GENEROUS.

<sup>13</sup>Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:13 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup>When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Romans 12:13 (NLT)

## *A Great Example of Radical Love*

...take delight in honoring each other.

Romans 12:10b (NLT)

### *Get Personal!*

Real love is zealous—it just doesn't seem to run out of enthusiasm because it sees itself as directed to God. Give a personal example of tireless, hard working love.

Radical love is patient—it just doesn't know how to give up, because to give up on people is to give up on God. Do you feel like giving up on someone right now? How would love hang in there?

Radical love is generous—it just keeps on giving! Do you struggle to give? Who is experiencing your generosity recently? Who should be?

What crazy, extreme, creative, off the wall, over the top, radical thing will YOU do this week to express love to someone in your life?

And then how will you make love a lifestyle?

Preview: *How can Radical Love get even MORE Radical? When we love people this way even when they are persecuting us!*

Next Week: *More Radical Love*