

“The Genuine Christian Life”
A Study of the Book of Romans
Pastor Tim Allen

Key Truth: The Genuine Christian will actively put the fruit of the Spirit on display.

How do you prove something’s genuine? You put it to the test. You compare it to the original. For example, It’s been widely pointed out that to determine whether a \$20 bill is genuine or counterfeit, you 1) *test* the item itself looking for the marks of authenticity, and 2) train yourself to know what a real \$20 bill looks like. We live in such a fake and simulated world, it’s getting more and more difficult to know what’s real. How can we know what’s real? And how can we demonstrate we’re genuine Christians? Paul gives us some insight about that in the passage before us.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 12:9-18** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled **“The Genuine Christian Life.”**

DIG IN

The Genuine Christian Life is marked by...

1. Love (Romans 12:9-11)

Genuine love is unhyprocritical love. Can you think of any expressions of love that are hypocritical? What are they? What does unhyprocritical love look like?

Why is it necessary that genuine love “abhor (hate) what is evil” and “hold fast to what is good?”

In what ways can thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think (v. 3) detrimental to the Body of Christ?

In what ways can love be lazy (v. 11)? In what ways should our love for one another be zealous?

2. Joy. (Romans 12:12-15)

Why should the genuine Christian be able to rejoice in hope (v. 12)?

Read vv. 13-15: What are some practical expressions of joy found here in these verses? In what ways do they also contribute to our joy?

3. Peace. (Romans 12:16-18)

In what ways might being haughty keep us out of harmony with one another (v. 16)? Why might that hinder peace?

Does Paul say we should pursue peace at all costs (v. 18)? Why or why not? What are some examples of things that are valuable enough to sacrifice peace for?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?