

# Sincerity:

Free of deceit or hypocrisy;  
genuine, real



Romans 12:9 tells us that “love must be sincere.” The Greek word for sincere could also be translated genuine or without hypocrisy. This verse is really speaking of *true* love. Love that is not about the *feelings*, but concerning the commitment - the promise husbands and wives make to *love each other for life* on their wedding day. Paul went on to say in this letter that we are to “be devoted to one another in love.” While *devoted* and *sincere* are very different words, the meaning is that we are to demonstrate true love - God’s love to those we come in contact with and especially toward our spouse. There should not be any deceit or hypocrisy (faking it) in our actions toward our spouse.

Sincerity also means that God’s truth guides our love, not those fleeting feelings based on our circumstances or what is happening in our daily lives. There is so much selfishness in our world today - life tends to be about individual and what they are feeling, rather than God’s truths. This selfishness rips apart marriages, families, churches, and causes divisions in our society overall. Perhaps the problem is that we are sincere, *sincerely* selfish and self-centered. This is *not* God’s plan or design for marriage or relationships overall. Too often, a person’s promises or commitments are kept as long as it is convenient. I cannot tell you how many times in counseling husband or wife (or both) will attempt to justify horrible behavior toward their spouse. The hypocrisy of their professed “love” for their spouse must be an affront to a holy God.

Sincere love is a true love; we *must* keep our promises and actually *do* what we say we will do, even if we don’t feel like it. We must get rid of the hypocrisy of professing love for our spouse and then treating them with contempt, derision, or downright dislike. Yes, we need to confront sin and the wrongs done to us, but those confrontations must be done out of love, not in anger. Is your love for your spouse *sincere*? Is it a genuine love expressing God’s love to him or her? Friends, it is time that we love our spouse, our children and those we come in contact with sincere love, not with a self-serving, hypocritical love.

**Helpful Resources:** *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* [www.fortifiedmarriages.com](http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com)

**Articles to check out:**

*10 Ways to be Sincere in a Relationship* by Charm Villalon - [inspiringtips.com](http://inspiringtips.com)

*Secrets of Happily Married Couples: Openness & Sincerity* by Pastor Wale Afelumo - [inspirationlife.org](http://inspirationlife.org)