

Genuine Love

God's love made known

⁷ Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. ⁸ I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. *II Corinthians 8:7-9*

What an affirmation of the Christians in Corinth. What are some of the affirmations that could be said about you and about your congregation?

What are some of the generous undertakings in which your congregation is currently involved?

Why do you think Paul wants to be clear that he is not making a command?

Our love made known

Real love makes itself known in our behavior. In I Corinthians 13 Paul writes ⁴“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.”

What does it mean for Paul to “test the genuineness” of the Corinthians love?

Stewardship – lip service/life service??