

30 Days of Prayer

Day 21

Romans 12.9

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

God of healthy, loving relationships,

I am blessed because I have love. I don't always recognize the love others have for me. I don't always appreciate the things people do for me that express their love. But when I stop and look, I see and I am thankful.

I thank you, Lord, for friends who show their love by listening to me, by being silent with me, by investing their time in me, by helping me, by calling me, and by thinking of me.

I thank you for parents who love and nurture, teach and model faith. I thank you for their willingness to sacrifice of their own time and needs to provide for their children.

I thank you for children who play, laugh, and grow, teaching me what it really means to love unconditionally. I thank you for the things that they teach me, just when I think I'm teaching them.

I thank you for spouses who support, care, serve, who are faithful, and who express their love in many ways. I thank you for the moments together, for the touches and the glances, and for the promises we have made that keep us together during challenging times.

I thank you for ministers who serve faithfully and love all those who you have sent to them. Bless them and help them to sustain your holy love for all your blessed children.

Jesus' purpose on earth was to love. He loved the people who followed him. He loved those who hated him. He told of God's love to anyone who would listen.

We are all blessed with loving relationships. Today we thank God for those we love and who love us.

These prayers thank God specifically for the love of friends, parents, children, spouses, and others. Even though there are clearly times when those relationships are broken, we offer up thanks for times when those relationships are a blessing.

It is a precious gift to be loved unconditionally. And it is a privilege to be called to love another. What an honor to be called to "outdo one another" in expressing love!

I thank you for others you have placed in my life who love me or whom I love. Help me remember that love is a verb, an action, and that sometimes it takes work. Help me know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you love me more than I will ever know, and you always will! In the name of Christ,

Amen.