



October 2, 2022

## “Unmasking the Counterfeits”

Romans 12:9

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### What is Ungenuine Love?

The Greek word for *genuine* is the negation of the word actor/hypocrite

True love is self-sacrificial giving for the good of another

Fake love is something that looks the part for the sake of self

Unambiguous Contexts: clarity for training

- Loving one's enemies: Matt 5:43-48
- Clear sacrifice differential: John 15:13; Luke 14:12-14
- Anonymous and hidden actions: Matt 6:2-4

The difficulty of teasing out genuine love in mutually loving relationships

The impossibility of perfect motives

It is not wrong to want to receive love

It is important to establish healthy boundaries in relationships

Practices that help cultivate and preserve genuine love

- Resist quid pro quo transactions, discipline expectations
- Be quick to forgive, keeps no record of wrongs: 1 Cor 13:5
- Express gratitude constantly

### The Formation of Instinctive Sensitivities Toward Evil and Good

Needed for discernment in subtle situations: a pre-rational moral instinct

The metaphor of smell as a helpful template

A sensitive nose to the stink of evil

Being drawn to, lingering in the fragrance of good

- New creation reality: 2 Cor 5:17
- Enhanced by reflective experience
- Time with God and with true lovers: countering counterfeits

**Question for Further Reflection:** Can I self-detect when I am consciously portraying a love image in order to gain an advantage? Have I ever sensed the presence of evil before I could rationally identify it or articulate it?