

1 Peter 1:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Analysis

Peter transitions to brotherly love as sanctification's fruit. "Seeing ye have purified your souls" (tas psychas hymōn hēgnikotes) uses perfect participle indicating past completed action with ongoing results—believers were purified at conversion and remain pure. This purification occurred "in obeying the truth" (en tē hypakoē tēs alētheias)—through responding to gospel with faith/obedience. "Through the Spirit" (dia pneumatos)—Holy Spirit effects purification, not human effort alone. The result: "unto unfeigned love of the brethren" (eis philadelphian anypokriton)—genuine, unhypocritical love for fellow believers. The command follows: "see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (ek katharas kardias allēlous agapēsate ektenōs)—intense, strenuous love from purified heart. "Fervently" (ektenōs) means earnestly, intensely—stretched-out love requiring effort.

Historical Context

In first-century context, Christian communities were radically diverse—Jews and Gentiles, slaves and free, rich and poor, men and women—united in Christ. Worldly divisions threatened church unity. Peter commands fervent mutual love transcending social barriers. This visible love distinguished Christianity from pagan religions ("See how these Christians love one another!" —Tertullian). Early church practiced radical hospitality, economic sharing, mutual care—demonstrating love's genuineness. Peter links purification (sanctification) to love—holiness produces love, not cold moralism.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What obstacles (pride, prejudice, unforgiveness) hinder your 'unfeigned love' for fellow believers, and how can you address them?
2. How does understanding that God purified you 'unto' love for others connect personal holiness with communal love?

Interlinear Text

Τὰς	ψυχὰς	ὁμῶν	ἡγνικότες	ἐν	τῇ	ὕπακοῃ	τῆς
G3588	souls	your	Seeing ye have purified	in	G3588	obeying	G3588
	G5590	G5216	G48	G1722		G5218	
ἀληθείας	διὰ	Πνεύματος	εἰς	φιλαδελφίαν			
the truth	through	the Spirit	unto	love of the brethren			
G225	G1223	G4151	G1519	G5360			
ἀνυπόκριτον	ἐκ	καθαῶς	καρδίας	ἀλλήλους	ἀγαπήσατε		
unfeigned	with	a pure	heart	one another	see that ye love		
G505	G1537	G2513	G2588	G240	G25		
ἐκτενῶς							
fervently							
G1619							

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 1:5 (Love): Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

Hebrews 13:1 (Love): Let brotherly love continue.

1 Peter 3:8 (Love): Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

1 John 4:12 (Love): No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:7 (Love): Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

James 4:8 (Parallel theme): Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

1 John 3:23 (Love): And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 (Love): And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

2 Thessalonians 1:3 (Love): We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

Acts 15:9 (Parallel theme): And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.