Trail Life
Adventure › Character › Leadership

# BECOMING A ROMANS 12 TRAILMAN

## SEPTEMBER TOPIC: How God Wants Us to Treat Others

**Theme verse: *Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.* Romans 12:9-10**

In the English language, the term "love" is very broad. Consider all the of the ways the term love is used. Expressions of love are common for material items, pets, food, activities, places, friends, family, God and many others.

In the Greek, there are individual words that define specific types of love. The highest form of love in the Greek is *agape*. This the love that God demonstrated in Romans 5:8: *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us*. We are all sinners and there was no reason for God to love us except for His desire to provide a way for our sins to be taken away by the sacrificial death of His Son. All we have to do is to believe and accept His gift of salvation. *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.* (Ephesians 2: 8-9) *There* is nothing we can do to earn salvation; it is an undeserved gift.

In our Romans 12 theme verses, the emphasis is on *agape* love; the unselfish and unconditional love for others. Part of the Trailman's Oath states that *I will do my best to serve God and my country."* Service is the selfless act of serving God by helping or doing work for others. Such service is one of the ways to demonstrate *agape* love.

Christ provides the example as to what our attitude should be when we demonstrate *agape* love through service. *Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many.* (Matthew 20:28 (LB))

The Greek word for another type of love is *philia*. *Philia* is the love between friends that is strong and long lasting. It is the strong bond between friends who share common values, interests and/or activities. This bond is especially strong between those that share a common faith in the Lord.

The story of David and Jonathan in the Bible is one of a great friendship. Jonathan went to great lengths to protect David from his father Saul, and David looked after Jonathan's children long after he was dead. Great friends do those kinds of things for each other. (See 1 Samuel 20: 14-17, 42)

Trail Life provides opportunities for close friendships *(philia)* to develop and flourish, some long term, some maybe extending a lifetime.