

Walking In Love – Love: The Bottom Line

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13; Ephesians 5:1-2

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Introduction

1. In Ephesians 5 Paul sets before us the highest standard in all the world; he tells them they must be imitators of God. What does this mean? It means that we love one another with same sacrificial love Jesus loved, and forgiving one another as God has done. Everything in Christianity is in the context of love (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). In order to walk in love, we need to know why...

I. God Is Love (The Why)

- a. Sharing In God's Nature (1 John 4:7-5:3)
 - i. To walk in love we must realize God is love and experience the love of Luke 15. Love is the nature of God. If we are united to God through faith in Christ then we share His nature.
 - ii. What God is determines what we ought to be (1 John 4:17). Love for one another is evidence of our fellowship with God and that we *know* God.
- b. God Has Proven His Love (Romans 5:8)
 - i. God has communicated His love not only in words but in deeds. How does God reveal Himself and His love today? Through us! If we abide in Christ (1 John 4:12-16 abide is used 6 times) then we will know God's love and God will express His love through us. Jesus didn't just preach love He proved it on the cross. He expects us to do likewise!

II. The Test Of Walking In Love (The How)

- a. Laying Down Our Lives (1 John 3:16-17)
 - i. Christian love involves sacrifice and service. How? Not through our deaths but through helping our brothers and sisters in Christ (Matthew 25:31-46; John 13:34-35).
 - ii. We must love in deed and truth (1 John 3:18; James 2:15-16). To love in word just means to talk about a need, but to love in deeds means to do something about meeting it.

III. Application Time (Why Don't We And How Can We)

- a. With Confidence Knowing You Are Forgiven, Loved, & Valuable (1 John 4:17-19)
 - i. Fear and torment is caused by something in the past that haunts us, or something in the present that upsets us, or something in the future that we feel threatens us. Perfect love casts out fear!
 1. Past- Jesus loved us and died for all of our sins!
 2. Present – As we grow in the love of God we cease to be fearful!
 3. Future – We know where we are going and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ!
- b. Honesty (1 John 4:20-21)
 - i. With our hearts, confident toward God we don't have to pretend to God or man.
- c. Joyful Obedience (1 John 5:1-3)
 - i. Our God is a loving Father and His commands are not a burden because they come from a God of love and we obey from a heart of love.
- d. Applied To Salvation
 - i. Preach in love (Ephesians 4:15; John 14:15) and people will obey the gospel because they love God. Galatians 5:6 describes faith working through love. 1 John 3:11,14 says we passed out of death into life because we love the brethren!
- e. Applied To The Home (Ephesians 5)
 - i. Want less stress and problems at home? Love is they only way to solve our problems at home.

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Only then can we walk in love!