

Series: Ephesians: Christ's Life In Us

Sermon: Walk in Love

Passage: Ephesians 5.1-2

Illustration:

Need: Because we are in Christ, we are called to live lives that model His love for us to others!

I. Love's worthy walk (5:1-2)

- First Unity, then Holiness, now Love.
- Agape - love extended irrespective of merit & seeks the highest good of the one loved.
- **Matt. 22:34-40; Rom. 13:8-10; 1 Cor. 16:13-14; John 13:34-35**
- It is not possible in our own strength (3:14-19).

II. Imitate the Father's Forgiving Love (5:1)

- To "be" and imitator of God is the idea of "becoming" an imitator more and more as you grow.
- Natural children look, sound, act, and often think like their parents. But this carries the idea of wanting to act like the Father because of our security and confidence in His love for us.
- It seems that Paul is likely looking back to what he said in 4:31-32, specifically in regard to "forgiveness."
- Forgiveness is one of the greatest evidences of God's love in us.
- The extent of our love is often the extent of our willingness to forgive. (Even those who won't forgive us)
- He continues to love us even when we:
 - Continue to sin & fall short of His glory
 - Forget Him
 - Disobey Him
 - Deny Him
 - Fail to return His love
 - Grieve the Holy Spirit

III. Model the Son's Sacrificial Love (5:2)

- **Rom 8:29** - The whole of the Christian life is the reproduction of godliness as seen in the person of Christ.
- Jesus' love was demonstrated as He "give himself up for us," willingly and intentionally - **Rom. 5:8**
- As with the OT offerings of worship, the obedience of Jesus death was "fragrant" pleasing aroma to God.
- Before the cross, Jesus practically demonstrated His love to His disciples by washing their feet. (John 13)
- It's no surprising thing that Jesus commands His followers to follow His example of sacrificial love.
- **1 John 3:16-17** gives a clear example of how we can be the recipients of love without being a giver of it.

IV. "What does Love require of me?" Andy Stanley

- When I am tired or don't feel good.
- When I am frustrated or angry.
- When I have been wronged or treated unjustly.
- When I feel like I'm being used.
- When I just want to ignore the situation and go about my way.
- When I've tried and they just won't respond.