



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Walking in Love as Imitators of God!

Scripture: Ephesians 5:1-2 - ¹Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; ²And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Walking in Love – means to conduct your daily life with active, unselfish, and sacrificial kindness. It is a lifestyle that mirrors the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. **It shows how you treat the people around you:** **Generosity:** Sharing your time, resources, or support with the downtrodden or those in need. **Building others up:** using your words to encourage, uplift, and resolve conflicts rather than tearing people down. **Forgiveness:** Letting go of grudges, bitterness, and keeping a record of wrongs.

Imitators of God – means to model your life, actions, and character after His divine attributes, particularly His love, grace, and compassion. Also, reflecting God's more nature in everyday relationships. Actively mirror the character, actions, and love of God as revealed through Jesus Christ. The only way we can do that is by having a relationship with Him.

We know that Christ was our divine example, but in order to follow Him we must bear our cross and listen to that still small voice and we would not walk in darkness because He is the light of the world. Jesus requires a total, unwavering commitment, including a willingness to endure suffering, public shame, and sacrifice for His sake. Therefore, we must follow in His footsteps and obey His will, regardless of the cost. *"Cannot be my disciple"* is a firm, non-negotiable condition. It is not about casually practicing a religion; it is about surrendering your entire life to Him. In order to follow, we must recognize God's voice through Scripture, prayer, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus has a deep, personal, and experiential relationship with us and He understands our heart, struggles, and needs. Because of it, we allow Him to lead our lives. He lights the path ahead of us so we can see how to live. He removes the darkness of sin from our lives. People of God, let Christ guide your life, and you'll never need to stumble in darkness.

Since we have been buried with Him by baptism into death we should walk in the newness of life. Therefore, we must walk by faith and in the Spirit, not by sight, then we will not fulfil the lust of the flesh. Let our walk be consistent and cautious, since Jesus Christ light illuminates and His blood has cleansed us from all sin. We have the ability to walk as He walked. *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another"* (John 13:34).

Christ is the pre-eminence of love. His love is selfless, unconditional, unchangeable, divine, inseparable, constraining, sacrificial, and was manifested by His death. Our love is shown through the fruit of the Spirit. *"We have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him"* (1 John 4:16). The Word of God encourages us that we should be rooted and grounded in love, so that we are able to comprehend with all saints and be filled with all the fullness of God. However, in the love chapter in 1 Corinthians 13, Paul states: *"Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity"* (1 Corinthians 13:13).

God's plan all along was to save us by Jesus' death. We have been rescued from the power of this evil world—a world ruled by Satan and full of cruelty, tragedy, temptation, and deception. Being rescued from this evil world doesn't mean we are taken out of it (John 17:15), but that we are no longer enslaved to it. *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"* (John 15:13). His great love for us led Him to sacrifice Himself so that He might deliver us from this present evil world and redeem us from all iniquity, and purify us unto Himself. Our love for others should be of the same kind—a love that goes beyond affection to self-sacrificing service.

Paul is instructing the church at Ephesus to live out a life of sacrificial love, modeling their behavior after the ultimate example set by Jesus Christ. Therefore, we must practice and live out selfless, unconditional love in every situation, making it the foundation of all behavior. We are called to measure our love by the radical, limitless grace Jesus demonstrated. We must treat others with the same forgiveness and kindness He showed. Jesus Christ's intentional choice to go to the cross and sacrifice His life to pay the penalty for mankind's sins. Christ's obedience and act of supreme love were completely acceptable and deeply pleasing to the Father as a fragrant aroma.

People of God we must Walk in Love as Imitators of God!