

Walking in the Ways of Christian Love

SERMON BY RAY REYNOLDS (5/5/11)

Text: Ephesians 5:1-5



Introduction: The Ephesian letter is a grand treatise on the glorious nature of the church of Christ. In the previous three chapters the apostle Paul is impressing upon every member of the body of Christ the importance of holy living. Now he turns his message in a new direction in the fifth chapter. He encourages his readers to focus on unity and love. There are five ways that Paul says we can walk in the ways of Christian love . . .

Discussion:

I. Emulate the Heavenly Father (v.1)

"You are God's children whom he loves, so try to be like him."

II. Exemplify the Son of God (v.2)

"Live a life of love just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God."

III. Eliminate Sin in Your Life (vs.3-4)

"But there must be no sexual sin among you, or any kind of evil or greed. Those things are not right for God's holy people. Also, there must be no evil talk among you, and you must not speak foolishly or tell evil jokes. These things are not right for you."

IV. Enjoy Praising the Lord (v.4)

"Instead, you should be giving thanks to God."

V. Endure to the End (v.5)

"You can be sure of this: No one will have a place in the kingdom of Christ and of God who sins sexually, or does evil things, or is greedy. Anyone who is greedy is serving a false god."

Conclusion: Meditate on these five ways of walking in the ways of Christian love. Think about these verses and compare them to **I Corinthians 13**. **DON'T LET SATAN EXTINGUISH YOUR FIRE!** Are you ready to get back on the right path? Do you know the God of love? Will you show Christian love?

WORD OF THE DAY = 'LOVE'