

Walking in Love
(Ephesians 5:1-2)

Introduction:

1. According to Ephesians 5:1, Christians are to be "*followers of God.*"
2. We learn from Ephesians 5:2, that we are to "*walk in love.*"
3. Some helpful guidelines for "walking in love" are given in Romans 12:9.
 - a. Love is to be without "*dissimulation*" [hypocrisy].
 - b. We are to "*abhor that which is evil*" [there are certain things that we must not love].
 - c. We are to "*cleave to that which is good*" [we must love that which is good].
4. In our lesson we are contrasting 6 forbidden types of love with 6 types of love that we are to possess.
5. Let us begin by pointing out that . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE BIBLE FORBIDS CERTAIN TYPES OF LOVE
 - A. (John 12:42-43) We must not love "*the praise of men more than the praise of God.*"
 1. The Pharisees had this problem, and it kept them from confessing the Lord.
 2. If we want Jesus to confess us we must confess Him (Matthew 10:32-33).
 - B. (I Timothy 6:10) We must not love "*money.*"
 1. The love of money:
 - a. prevented the rich young ruler from following Jesus (Matthew 19:16-22)
 - b. caused the first scandal in the church (Acts 5:1-11).
 2. In I Timothy 6:17-19, Paul showed us what God wants.
 - C. (II Timothy 3:1-2a) We must not love ourselves [think too highly of ourselves -- Romans 12:3].
 - D. (II Timothy 3:4) We must not be "*lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.*"
 - E. (I John 2:15-17) We must not love "*the world.*"
 - F. (III John 9) We must not love having "*preeminence.*"
- II. THE BIBLE COMMANDS US TO POSSESS CERTAIN TYPES OF LOVE
 - A. We are to love God (Matthew 22:37; I John 5:3).
 - B. We are to love Christ (Matthew 10:37; John 14:15).
 - C. We are to love our neighbors (Matthew 22:39; 7:12).
 - D. We are to love our fellow Christians (John 13:34-35).
 - E. We are to love God's Word (Psalm 119:97).
 - F. We are to love the lost (Romans 10:1).
 1. This includes:
 - a. people who have not obeyed the Gospel
 - b. members of the church who are not faithful.
 2. If we love the lost we will put forth our best effort to save them.

Conclusion:

1. "Walking in love" is an important activity for God's children (Ephesians 5:2a).
2. We learn from Ephesians 5:2b that Christ is to be our example.
3. What do our love and the objects of our love say about us?