

Walking in Love

Introduction:

1. According to the Scriptures, Christians are to be:
 - a. "people of faith" (Hebrews 10:38)
 - b. "people of hope" (1 Peter 1:3)
 - c. "people of love" (Ephesians 5:1-2).
2. Please note from Ephesians 5:1-2 that God's people 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 things 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).

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. Let us examine our love as well as the objects of our love to determine if we truly are "walking in love."