

February 13 & 14, 2021



Ephesians 5:1-2 *"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."* ESV

Love is the central virtue of the church.

What did Paul mean when he says that we should walk in love?

John 13:34-35 *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* ESV

How Jesus Loved the Disciples

- Simon Peter
- Doubting Thomas
- Matthew the Tax Collector
- Simon the Zealot

Jesus modeled that moral failures or political differences do not give us permission to withhold love from one another.

Love others by telling the truth.

Ephesians 4:25-27 *"Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil."* ESV

Love others by being generous.

Ephesians 4:28 *"Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need."* ESV

Love others by using uplifting words.

Ephesians 4:29 *"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."* ESV

Love others by forgiving.

Ephesians 4:31-32 *"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."* ESV

Refocus:

We will be a church that is patient and kind.

We will be a church that is not envious, boastful, rude, insisting on our own way, irritable or resentful.

We will be a church that rejoices with the truth.

We will be a church that bears, believes, hopes, and endures one another until the end.