

Walk In God's Love

Ephesians 5:1-21

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

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

What does it mean to be an imitator of God?

"Watch what God does, and then you do it..." Ephesians 5:1 (The Message)

1. Build upon the foundation of God's Love

Walk in Love (v. 1) and Submit yourselves to one another (v. 21)

"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. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34–35 (ESV)

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:1–3 (ESV)

"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13 (ESV)

"We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death." 1 John 3:14 (ESV)

People with different religious convictions, ethnic and racial backgrounds, sexual and gender orientations, political persuasions. Christians (Hillside) should be the most talked about people in the Napa Valley because we love, accept, and forgive people. Love doesn't mean we don't have a standard or convictions based on Scripture – love means that the person created in the image of God is our priority and what they believe or do is secondary.

2. Shift your partnership to reflect God's Love

*"But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness **must not even be named among you**, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which **are out of place**, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one **deceive you with empty words**, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore **do not become partners with them**; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light** ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern **what is pleasing to the Lord**. ¹¹ **Take no part in the unfruitful works of***

darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'" Ephesians 5:3-14 (ESV)

But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

¹⁹ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. John 5:17, 19–20 (ESV)

3. Avoid reckless activities, killing God's Love.

"Look carefully then **how you walk**, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but **understand what the will of the Lord is**. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ." Ephesians 5:15-21 (ESV)

So What?

For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has **no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God**. Ephesians 5:5 (ESV)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (ESV)

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10 (ESV)

But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. Luke 16:25 (ESV)

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Romans 6:4 (ESV)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Revelation 21:3–5 (ESV)