

## *Walking In Love*

*“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour” (Eph. 5:2).*

There is no end to motivational programs, tools, and speakers in our day. Any subject that is desired is available in the motivational venue. Recently, while briefly scanning the web, I found all sorts of motivational helps regarding sales training, sales management training, disability awareness, character education, self-esteem enhancement, self-development, youth empowerment, leadership, team building, communication, and other areas.

There is also plenty of information available on how to motivate yourself to walk and keep on walking. Some of the ways to stay motivated are: Wear good socks and shoes; keep your body hydrated; walk with an Mp3 player or an iPod; keep a journal of your walking; vary your distance each day; walk with others; use your walking time to learn from nature; think about your health; tell someone else about your goals.

How does all this apply to our spiritual experience? Well, for sure, there is more to the Christian life than mere motivation. With Christ living His life in us, believers are not limited to the power of positive thinking. In this text, the Apostle Paul seems to use love as a motivation for our spiritual walk. We are to progressively love Jesus, love other saints, love sinners, and love all because God first loved us. Here are a few reminders concerning walking in love.

*These words remind us that there is a lifestyle to be forsaken!* To “walk in love” necessitates that we forsake the ways of our past. We must not allow “corrupt communication” to “proceed out of our mouths” (4:29). We must no longer be dominated by “bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking” and “all malice” (4:31). We are no longer serving the flesh, but are “followers of God” (5:1).

*These words remind us that there is a command to be fulfilled!* When we are told to “walk in love,” we are not given any options. This is not an item to be voted on by God’s dear children. This is a command from the Holy Spirit! Of course, in days gone by we could not dream of keeping divine commands. But now the Lord Jesus indwells us by His Spirit and He enables us in the realm of obedience.

*These words remind us that there is an example to be followed!* Walking in love is walking after the pattern of Jesus. He “hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.” As our High Priest and as the supreme sacrifice for sin, Jesus pleased the Father with His offering on the cross. Similarly, as He lives His life through us, this same wonderful love will touch others and please the Father.

