

WALK IN LOVE, AS CHRIST

Ephesians 4:31-5:7 (ESV)

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

¹ 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.

³ 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;

Love Goes Beyond right and wrong, beyond what is fair or what someone deserves

Love is a sacrifice, to give more than we get, and to do it with joy.
Love honestly and eagerly desires the good of someone else.

But, God's demands of love are impossible. How can I walk in (live a life of) love?

The tale of two prayers.

I can walk in love, as Christ loves through me

“The Law requires much, but offers no help in the carrying out of its requirements. The Lord Jesus requires just as much, yea even more (Matt. 5:21-48), but what he requires from us he himself carries out in us. The law makes demands and leaves us helpless to fulfill them; Christ makes demands, but he himself fulfills in us the very demands he makes.”
-Watchman Nee, *The Normal Christian Life*

I can walk in love, as Christ loves me

...as God in Christ forgave you. (4:32)
...as beloved children. (5:1)
...as Christ loved us (5:2)

We are called beyond our rights to a life of sacrificial love.

We are able to walk in love as we drink deeply of the love of God and allow the love of God, in Christ, to flow out of us.

