

Walk in Love, just as Christ Loved You

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **Eph. 4:17-21** explain: not walk as Gentiles . . . because **not learned Christ** in that way – **heard, taught, truth** in Jesus

- **How should we walk?**

➤ We walk in love – agape

- **Eph. 5:2a** walk in love - *agape* conviction of mind to do the right thing – **matter or will** rather than feeling – **no matter the cost**

➤ - proper relationship with God

- **Mk. 12:30** love God all heart, soul, mind, strength

➤ - proper relationship with fellow man

- **Mk. 12:31** love neighbor as yourself

- **Matt. 5:44** love your enemies

- **Rom. 12:20** if enemy hungry feed him, if **thirsty** give him a drink

- **illus.: Eph. 5:21-6:8** be in a right relationship with every person in every relationship

➤ - proper relationship with the truth (word, gospel)

- **2 Th. 2:10** love the truth

- **Eph. 4:15** speak the truth in love

- **illus.: commitment to truth**

- **Polycarp**, like many other Christians, ordered to swear and thus deny Christ, or would be painfully persecuted to the death

- **Polycarp: “Eighty and six years have I served him, and he never once wronged me; how then shall I blaspheme my King, Who hath saved me?”**

- **burned at the stake**

➤ - **Do you love God? – fellow man? – truth?**

- **What in your life today, shows that you have this committed love for God today?**

➤ **We walk in the same love Jesus has for us** - *agapao* (verb form of *agape*) - **mental commitment in action** – sacrificially commitment

- **Eph. 5:2** walk in love, just as Jesus loved us, sacrifice

- **illus.:** God's love, gave Jesus – sacrifice

- **illus.:** Jesus' love, emptied self, came to earth, slave, preached, cross – sacrifice

- **illus.:** a little girl's sacrificial love

- **Dave Simmons** tells a story about taking his daughter (8 years old) and son (5 years old) to the mall

- there was a petting zoo

- **the kids begged to go, Dave gave them each a quarter, the kids ran to the petting zoo, and he walked into Sears**

- **a few minutes later, Helen** (his daughter) walk up behind him

- **Dave was shocked** she preferred the hardware department to the petting zoo

- **then realizing there was a problem, he asked** what was wrong

- **Helen:** "Well, Daddy, it cost fifty cents. So, I gave Brandon my quarter."

- **Then she repeated the family motto** – "Love is Action!"

- **she had given Brandon her quarter** – though no one loves the cuddly furry animals at the petting zoo more than Helen

- **as soon as Dave finished his errands, he took Helen to the petting zoo**, but didn't do what you might think

- **Dave stood by the fence and watched** Brandon go crazy petting and feeding the animals

- **Helen stood with her hands and chin resting on the fence and just watched** Brandon

- **although Dave had fifty cents burning a hole in his pocket**, he never offered it to Helen, and she never asked for it

- **he reflected on the family motto**, which really was "Love is **SACRIFICIAL** Action!"

- Love always pays a price.

- Love always costs something.

- Love is expensive.

- Love gives; it doesn't grab (take).

- **Helen had given her quarter to Brandon – she had to sacrifice for it to be love – she wanted to experience the family motto – love is sacrificial action**

- (revised from SermonIllustrations.com, Dave Simmons, Dad, The Family Coach, Victor Books, 1991, pp. 123-124)

➤ - **Eph. 5:21, 22, 25; 6:1, 2, 4, 5, 9** God commands sacrificial love (cf. **Eph. 5:2**) - Christians, wife, husband

- **illus.:** fiancé sacrificial love

- **During the 17th century, Oliver Cromwell sentenced a soldier** to be shot for his crimes.

- The execution was to take place at the **ringing of the evening curfew bell**. However, the **bell did not sound**.

- The **soldier's fiancé had climbed into the belfry and clung to the great clapper of the bell** to prevent it from striking.

- When **she was summoned by Cromwell** to account for her actions, she **wept** as she **showed him her bruised and bleeding hands**.

- **Cromwell's heart was touched and he said**, Your fiancé (lover) shall live because of your sacrifice.

Curfew shall not ring tonight! (Our Daily Bread)

➤ - **Who do you love? Do you have a sacrificial love? - God, spouse, children, parents, friends, employers, employees** – *agapao*, mental conviction in action

➤ **How do you know you're walking in love?** – *agapao*, mental conviction in action - 5 examinations of your life – **sacrificial love**

- You have a **moral walk** of life.– **sacrificial love**
 - **Eph. 5:3-5** comment on different behaviors

- - You're **not deceived by empty words** (false religions, false teachers).– **sacrificial love**
 - **Eph. 5:6** not deceived, therefore faithful to God

- - You're **not participating in deeds of darkness**, but **exposing them** as **Light**, a child of Light.– **sacrificial love**
 - **Eph. 5:7-8, 11-13** walk as children of Light

- - You **walk in wisdom, making the most of your time**.– **sacrificial love**
 - **Eph. 5:15-17** careful how you walk, wise, making best of your time, understanding the will of the Lord (doing His will)

- - You're **not drunk (entangled in sin)**, but **worshipping** God in your life, **giving thanks**.– **sacrificial love**
 - **Eph. 5:18-20** example of not wasting time, and understanding will of Lord – **worship, not sin**

- **Summary / Inv.**
 - **Eph. 2:10** we're created in Christ, God's workmanship for good works

 - **Eph. 5:2** we walk in love, just as Christ loved us, and gave Himself up for us, a sacrifice of love

 - **Do you sacrificially love God as much as He loves you? – Jesus? – How do you know?**

 - **Do you sacrificially love others as much as God loves them? – Jesus? – How do you know?**