



Back To The Bible

Walk In Love

Tim Canup

Paul wrote, “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 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” (Ephesians 5:1-2). What does it mean to walk in love? Many in our world today have a misunderstanding about love. Many believe that all we have to have is love; after all, in Matthew 22:37-38, Jesus said, “This is the first and great commandment.” However, does love overlook and ignore disobedience to God? Certainly not.

In John 14:15, Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” Jesus demands that we keep His commandments. We do so because we love Him. “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and **keep his commandments**. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (I John 5:2-3). We must have love for God and one another; however, we **MUST** keep all the commandments that God has given.

Consider what John wrote in II John 6, “And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.” The word walk in the New Testament has the idea of our daily manner of life; it is how we live our lives from day to day. To walk (or live) in love means that we live our lives according to the commandments found in the New Testament. Not just some! Not just those that go along with our tradition, but all the commandments given by God! We must obey all the commandments to become a Christian as well as to maintain that relationship with God.

To become a Christian, Jesus commanded that we must hear the Gospel (John 6:44-45); that we must believe that He is the Christ (John 8:24); that we must repent of our sins (Luke

13:3); that we must confess Him to others as the Christ (Matthew 10:32-33); and that we must be baptized in order to be saved (Mark 16:15-16). If you would like to know more about the commandments that are given in God's Word, which will wash away your sins and put you into the church that belongs to Him, or if you would like to enroll in an in-home Bible study or in a correspondence course by mail (no cost or obligation to you), please return this coupon to: Back To The Bible; 221 Barnett Street; West Jefferson, NC 28694 or visit us online at: www.wjchurchofchrist.org

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