

**Walking in Love.**  
**“I wanna know what love is” :-))**

1 Corinthians 13 : 1-8. 1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

Testimony : Growing up I didn't know what true love was. When I became a Christian I experienced feeling romantic emotions for more than one person at the same time and knew this was not right. This caused me to seek the lord and ask Him, “What is love”. I then began a journey where I had to learn what it was to love as God loves.

Ephesians 5 : 1-2. Therefore be imitators of God as dear children, and WALK IN LOVE, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us , an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling aroma.

Jesus imitated His father. He is the express image of God the Father. This scripture is telling us that How Jesus treated us, was in fact a perfect representation of How God the Father feels towards us.

**Understanding Different Greek words used for love in scripture.**

**Storge.** Family love. Love that is experienced within the family unit. Parents and children.

**Philia.** Affectionate love. Warm hearted, spontaneous affection, liking, and friendship.  
LOOK AT [PETER AND JESUS' discussion on the beach after his resurrection.](#)

**Eros.** Physical love. Where we get our english word erotic from. This word was not actually used in the new testament due to its bad connotations in pagan society. Though forms of the word appear in the greek translation of the old testament, the septuagint. There is however a valid place for this word in Christian thinking, for the normal married relationship as described in the biblical book the song of Solomon.

***The Love that Paul is talking about.***

Here we are encouraged to walk in UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.

**Agape.** Unconditional love not based on feelings or emotion, but on an act of the will. For God so loved (agape) the world that He gave His only begotten son.

Human love or affection is drawn out by the object that it focuses on.

Human love and / or affection is stimulated by our physical senses, our emotional state or our personal values. **Eg.** What my eyes see, what my ears hear, what my body feels, what my heart values.



When we see something or someone of great beauty, value or worth. We see a hurting child, or animal. God's love however, is not drawn out by an object, moved by or stimulated by an external act, need or desire. God's love is purely a divine quality of His very own nature. He chooses to love because He is love. It's His nature to love. Which is given as an act and determination of His own will.

1 John 4:8 He who does not love (agape) does not know God, for God is (agape) love.

**Imitate God.** From the root word Mimetes. "mimic".

We are exhorted to imitate God in our life style. In the way that Jesus loved us, we are to love each other. This can only be done if we understand that Christ's love for us was the outward visible overflow of a completely pure love for His Father. Christ's love for us was the result of His relationship with His Father. **Jesus imitated His father.** "I only do those things I see the Father doing. I only speak what I hear the father saying".

If we are to love like Christ, we must make a wilful determined decision to imitate God.

**NOTE:** This love we are to live according too, is not a feeling, not an emotion, but a determined act of the will. It is a choice.

It's also not acting or pretending, but choosing to do what we know and believe to be the will of God.

**We are meant to imitate God.** Back to Ephesians 5:1-2.

Ephesians 5 : 1-2. Therefore be imitators of God as dear children, and WALK IN LOVE, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us , an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling aroma.

**We are also meant to imitate those who imitate God.**

Paul. 1 Corinthians 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

We are shown from Ephesians 5:1-2 Two main things Jesus had to do before He could become a perfect example, an imitation, the express image of God to mankind. If we want to be Jesus to our family, friends and the rest of the world, we must also do these two things.

1/. He offered Himself. given Himself for us , an offering

2/. He sacrificed Himself. and a sacrifice to God

1/. He offered Himself.

The word offered comes from the root word "presentation". Jesus presented Himself to God for God to use Him as He saw fit. This wasn't just an "here I am if you want me" offering. It was a complete wilful, determined decision and abandonment of his own rights.

He presented or offered Himself completely in three ways. a/. His Body. b/. His soul. c/. His Spirit.

1a/. His Body.

Hebrews 10 : 5-7. 5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a **BODY** you have prepared for me; 6 with burnt



offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. 7 Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.' "

He relinquished ownership to His own body. Jesus had the attitude that His body was not His own to do with it as He pleased.

John 8 : 28-29. So Jesus said, "**When you have lifted up the Son of Man ( CRUCIFIED )**, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. 29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.

Jesus gave up His body so that He could use ours..... Don't offer something, offer someone.....YOURSELF

Romans 12 : 1. Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer (present) your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

As we give up ownership of our bodies and submit them to Christ for His use. We become a part of His Greater body.

1 Corinthians 6 : 19-20. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. **Therefore honour God with your body.**

Questions : Do we regard our own bodies as the temple of the Holy Spirit? Are we using it for the glory of God, or are we using it for our own pleasure, abusing it, neglecting it? Please share your thoughts on this with the group.

1 Corinthians 6 : 9-12. 9 Do you not know that the **wicked will not inherit** the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the **sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.** 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 12 "Everything is permissible for me"--but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"--but I will not be controlled by anything.

Things to note about this passage.

**The sins mentioned here are in relation to the use of the body.**

**The corinthian church was renowned for its misuse of its liberty in Christ.**

Knowing they were no longer under law, they thought it ok to dabble in sexual sin and overly indulge their physical appetites for food and drink.

Paul warns them that giving in to any physical indulgence (not eating but over eating, not drinking but drunkenness, not sex but immoral sex) or misuse of the body to worship idols, to cheat and slander people, will rob them of their godly inheritance and endanger them of becoming slaves to the thing they yield to.



### **1b/. The benefits of submitting our bodies to Him.**

The Body is for the Lord and the Lord is for the body. 1 Corinthians 6:13  
God loves our body. He wants the best for it. He has provided an inheritance for it.  
He has provided healing for it. Isaiah 53:4-5 By His stripes we were healed.  
He has provided strength for it. Psalm 103:5 Your youth is renewed like the eagle. You shall run and not grow weary. Proverbs 4:20-22 Isaiah 40:31  
He has provided rest for it. Psalm 127:2 He gives His beloved sleep.  
He has provided a resurrection for it. John 11:25 I am the resurrection and the life.

### **1c/. His Soul. ( mind, Will and emotions )**

Not my **will**, but **your will** be done.  
Jesus relinquished all rights to His own soul. Instead of trying to build his own identity, He handed Himself over to His Father. Jesus **presented His soul** along with His body to be tempted in all points just as we are in order.....

**Firstly.** To overcome everything that this world and satan could offer.  
Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted. If you will worship me Jesus!

John 17: 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

**I sanctify myself so you may be sanctified.**

**Secondly.** To be a high priest to us who is able to relate to every problem we will ever face in life.

Hebrews 4 : 15. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Jesus did this for us. He suffered mental and emotional torment. He allowed Himself to go through agonising situations in order to defeat them by the power of His Spirit, as He refused to obey the lusts and demands of His own soul. Having tasted the pain of temptation and suffering in the soul, He is now able to relate to every situation that anyone may find themselves in and because He overcame every situation, He can now empower us and strengthen us to do likewise.

### **1 d/. His Spirit.**

#### **Firstly. In life**

Hebrews 10:5- 7. 5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but **A BODY** you have prepared **FOR ME** 6 with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. 7 Then I said, '**Here I am**--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.' "

**Note :** "A body you have prepared for me."

Jesus draws a distinction between the physical body He lived in and who He really was. The body to Jesus, was purely a vehicle in and through which He lived.



“Here I am” : Jesus here is speaking of His real self, His Spiritual being, that lived in a body and had a soul.

## **Secondly. In Death**

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” Having said this, He breathed His last.

Into your hands I commit my Spirit. The eternal part of our being. That which gives life to our bodies and souls. Jesus trusted God His father with His very own Spirit.

## **2/. He Sacrificed Himself.**

Every presentation or offering will be tested on its authenticity by being placed upon the altar and consumed with the sacrificial fire. Either through actually being placed on the altar as many of the martyrs experienced ( as of their own choice to die for Christ ), or by being faced with it. Either way, there will be pain involved, hurt, distress, discomfort. Isaiah 53 : 3-5. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

**After offering His body to God.** He was bruised and pierced, smitten and stricken.

**After offering His soul to God.** He was rejected and despised. A man of sorrows and familiar with grief (suffering).

**After committing His Spirit to God.** He experienced death. “Into your hands I commit my Spirit”.

## **Application of the teaching.**

**If I want to walk in love, I must be willing to present myself to God. Body, soul and spirit.**

Question : In what areas of life do you need to present your bodies, your souls or your spirits to christ. In what ways have you surrendered your will to His will?

**If I want to walk in love, I must be willing to be placed upon the altar of sacrifice.**

Question : Are we willing to allow God to lead us into times of testing, pain and suffering in order for us to learn to love as He loves? ( Note : Sickness does not come under suffering for Christ but is an attack of the enemy and must be resisted and rejected no matter what. Isaiah 53:4-5 )

Question: Why do you think it is possible for us to love like this in life? Please use Scripture to explain your answer.



Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

### Conclusion:

#### **a/. Do not despise the trial you are going through.**

How we view the problems we face will very often determine our attitude in them. If I view problems as a burden, they will rob me of my rest.

James 1 : 2 . Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds.

Question : How well would you say you view the problems that you face?

#### **b/. Accept that pain is a part of growth. Death comes before resurrection.**

Hebrews 5 : 7-8. During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered.

#### **c/. Adversity is the road of advancement. Overcomer's reap rewards.**

James 1 : 12. Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

**d/. Trials are opportunities to develop truth and discover new treasures.** What lies beneath is revealed and perfected.

James 1 : 2-5. Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the **testing of your faith develops perseverance.** 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. **5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.**

**The testing of your faith.** This indicates that what you need ( the word ) to go through your trial, God has already placed within you to a large degree. As faith only comes by the word, then you must already have it. It is during the trial that this word is perfected within you.

**If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.**

Wisdom is the ability to make right godly choices. If we lack the wisdom to apply what we have within us, which God has given us, we must ask for it and God promises that He will give it to us. As we mature in the spirit, we will realise that the wisdom we need is already within us as He was made all wisdom abound towards us. Ephesians 1:8.

**e/. Suffering in order to be obedient attracts the “manifested” or “conscious” presence of Jesus. (As He is always there, living in us)**

**He who keeps my words.**

**John 14 : 23.** Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

