Walk in Love, just as Christ Loved You

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) wall 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 betting 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

- 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 worshiping 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?