

“The WALK OF LOVE: The Price We Pay”

Ephesians 5:2

“He hath given Himself an offering and a sacrifice to God.”

Everything we know about love is that it gives.

The Bible says that “God so loved the world that He gave...”

Jesus said, “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:3)

The Bible says that “love...seeketh not its own...” (I Corinthians 13:5)

It should not surprise us at all that “the walk of love” is built upon the foundation of self-giving.

Ephesians 5:2 tells us clearly that we are to “walk in love, as Christ also has loved us, and has given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God...”

If we are to “walk in love” then that is “the price we pay.”

It is the price Christ paid. We are under clear instruction to do the same - to pay the same price.

How do we do that?

There are three commitments that are necessary in The Price Christ Paid for His Walk of Love:

I. TO ABANDON HIMSELF

- 5:2 “...He has given Himself...”
- One of our greatest reasons for listening to Christ is because He backed His talk with His walk - He set the model.
- The way He behaved is the way we are to behave.
- He left no room for doubt about our following Him in the walk of love. Here is what He said to would be followers:
 - “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)
 - Christ “has given Himself” and calls on us to do the same with -

1. Self-Surrender -
 - “let him deny himself”
 2. Daily-Surrender -
 - “let him deny himself daily...”
 3. Exclusive-Surrender -
 - “let him deny himself daily and follow-me.”
- The Apostles built their life and ministry around that commitment of self-abandonment.
- They denied themselves and followed.

Not only did Christ make the commitment TO ABANDON HIMSELF, He also made the commitment -

II. TO PROVIDE FOR OTHERS

- 5:2 “He gave Himself for us.”
- Just who are we that he should pay such a price to provide for us? Three negative answers:
 1. We Are People Who By Creation Are Inferior To Christ.
 - The Bible describes Christ as the “only Begotten of God” (John 3:16) and even though made in His image, the Bible says that we were made “a little lower than the angels.” (Hebrews 2:7)
 2. We Are People Who By Nature Do Not Seek Christ.
 - (1) Ephesians 2:1 We had no spiritual life.
 - (2) Ephesians 2:2 We had no spiritual freedom.
 - (3) Ephesians 2:3 We had no spiritual appetite.
 3. We Are People Who By Sin Are Separated from Christ.
 - Romans 6:23

-- In every generation there is the crowd that is active for religious self-gain. They walk for themselves. They demand service yet provide none.

They want to be comfortable but do not want to give comfort.

They want religious pleasure without Christian purity.

A commitment to OTHERS is not only out of the question, it is absurd.

But not with Christ. For Him the walk of love was a commitment TO OTHERS.

One of our great Christian hymns puts it this way -

“Lord help me live from day to day,
In such a self-forgetful way,
That even when I kneel to pray,
My prayer shall be for OTHERS.

Help me in all the work I do,
To ever be sincere and true,
And know that all I’d do for you,
Must needs be done for OTHERS.

Let ‘self’ be crucified and slain,
And buried deep; and all in vain
May efforts be to rise again,
Unless to live for OTHERS.

And when on earth my work is done,
And my new work in heav’n’s begun,
May I forget the crown I’ve won,
While thinking still of OTHERS.

CHORUS: Others, Lord, yes, others,
Let this my motto be.
Help me to live for others,
That I might live like Thee.”

Now The Third Commitment Christ Made in The Price He Paid to walk in love was the commitment -

III. TO HONOR HIS FATHER

-- v.2 “He offered Himself...an offering and a sacrifice TO GOD.”

- It is one of the sacred foundations of Christianity - that our relationship with God is founded upon the sacrifice of our life to Him.”
- Let me give you a sample of how this is accented.
 - Isaiah 42:8 - “I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.”
 - Isaiah 66:19 - “They shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.”
 - Romans 12:1
 - Galatians 2:20 - “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
 - 2 Corinthians 4:5 - “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake.”
 - 2 Corinthians 4:7 - “We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”
 - The Bible says that true Christian love - the AGAPE - “seeks not its own.”
 - If this is the price our Lord paid to walk in love, and we are told clearly to walk in this love -

THEN WE NEED TO LET IT BE KNOWN that the old fashioned Bible teaching of the sacrificed life is still a contemporary requirement of the Christian life.

-- ILLUSTRATIONS OF CONCERN

- The modern day glorification of Christian Artists as opposed to the sacrificing ministry of Christian servants.

- The concepts of “marketing God.”
 - ex: “Come to a spirit-filled event. Tickets may be purchased for \$18.00 at the following locations.”
- The desire of churches to attract people through the provision of creative comforts instead of the way of Christ who said, “foxes have holes, the birds have nests, but the Son of man has no place to lay His head.” (Matthew 8:20)
 - and who said that all who followed Him would do so on a cross?
- Jesus paid the price of His walk of love - and that price was To Honor His Father by sacrificing His life to Him.

* * *

Prepared by RLA May '96