

Christian Study

Lesson 328

Be Light

Focusing on Church beyond Sunday

How Can I Know and Understand What the Bible Mean?

Walk in The Way of Love

Here is what the Word of God says about how we as believers should walk in the way of love. For simplicity, these verses was taken from Eugene Peterson's "The Message" (MSG)

"Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that. Don't allow love to turn into lust, setting off a downhill slide into sexual promiscuity, filthy practices, or bullying greed. Though some tongues just love the taste of gossip, those who follow Jesus have better uses for language than that. Don't talk dirty or silly. That kind of talk doesn't fit our style. Thanksgiving is our dialect." **Ephesians 5:1-4**

Here is how the same verses are read in the King James and English Standard (ESV) versions.

English Standard Version (ESV)

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. **2** And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. **3** But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. **4** Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor

crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving."

Ephesians 5:1-4

King James Version (KJV)

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; **2** 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 sweet smelling savour. **3** But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; **4** Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks." **Ephesians 5:1-4**

In his letter to the Colossians, the apostle Paul calls us dearly beloved people of God, when telling us what and who binds all things together.

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." **Colossians 3:12-15**

We are asked to take hold of our eternal life and say thanks to God in everything and in every circumstance of our lives, because that is His will for us. That is God's will for each and every believer.

"But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." **1 Timothy 6:11-12**

"When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, **2** since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him **3** And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." **John 17:1-3**

"And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. **15** See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. **16** Rejoice always, **17** pray

without ceasing, **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." **1 Thessalonians 5:14-18**

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,^[h] for those who are called according to his purpose." **Romans 8:28**

As born again believers in the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, we have been rescued from spiritual death to spiritual life and now we are a royal priesthood.

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." **Colossians 1:13-14**

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is your life appears then you also will appear with him in glory." **Colossians 3:1-4**

"As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, **5** you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...**9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." **1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10**

We are ministers of a new covenant, ministers of reconciliation and ambassadors for the truth. So, let us read what is our mandate.

"He has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. **7** Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, **8** will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? **9** For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. **10** Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all,

because of the glory that surpasses it. **11** For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory." **2 Corinthians 3:6-11**

"From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. **18** All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; **19** that is, in Christ God was reconciling^[c] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

As we come to the end of this series on "Gateway to Grace" I would like to say thank you very much for walking along with us at Be Light Ministries and to take this opportunity to point you to one of the most profound statements the apostle Peter makes in his first epistle. May God richly bless you and join next time as we start a new series proclaiming the love and grace of Jesus.

"Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? **14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, **15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, **16** having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. **17** For it is better, to suffer for doing good if that should be God's will, than for doing evil." **1 Peter 3:13-17**

Our mission is to help people find strength and security on the foundation that can never be shaken, cracked or shattered. This foundation is the remarkable truth of God's unconditional love and His indisputable grace experienced in a relationship with Jesus Christ. The critics of Christianity have launched a full attack to discredit the person and works of Jesus Christ and the reliability of His word. We cannot be silent anymore. Let us as children of light, stand firm in the faith, because He who has taken us this far will never forsake us. You are called Christians, be careful of that name. Let not our Lord Jesus Christ be blasphemed on your account

Believe this, "Jesus did not come to make bad people good, He came to make dead people live."

[Keep It Simple](#)

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.

If you have any questions, comments or you know anybody else who will benefit from this study please feel free to give us their email address and they will be added to our mailing list to receive weekly lessons. The email address is santigiemando1@gmail.com,

Remember: A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle

(Ephesians 5:8)