

“IN LOVE”

By Keith Greer

Love is indeed a subject about which the Bible frequently speaks. Today, we want to examine three different "**in love**" activities in which God's people should participate.

Walking in Love. "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." {Ephesians 5:2} How does a Christian walk "in love"? As used in this verse, the word walk means, manner of life. God's people need to exhibit love's attributes by our actions, attitudes, and words and by following God's will in our lives.

Acting in love. "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. {1 Corinthians 13:2,3} The motive for a Christian's actions should always be love -love for God, Christ, our brethren, and those who are lost in sin. Only by acting out of love can we truly manifest the example Christ left us.

Speaking in love. "With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love." {Ephesians 4:2} How do we speak to those with whom we have personal relationships in our lives? How do we communicate with our spouses? Our children? Our brethren? What about those who are outside of Christ? Brethren, not only is what we say important, but how we say it! Does our speech demonstrate and portray love?

Love is one Christian attribute that must be evident. God does not want us to hide our love; He wants us to express and display it to others that they might see Christ in us. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." {Matthew 5:16}. Love needs to be freely expressed to those whom God has commanded us to love. Jesus said that such love would be a sign to others of one's discipleship, John 13:34,35.

Dear reader, what kind of "love life" do you have? Could it be said of you that you are a Christian "in love" with others or just with yourself? ***