

Order of Service - September 20, 2020

Offering/Dismissal

FOLLOW THE LEADER

LIVING (WALKING) IN THE LIGHT (Ephesians 5:1-20)

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children. **Live a life filled with love**, **following the example of Christ**. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. **Ephesians 5:1-2 (NLT)**

HOW TO PRACTICALLY LIVE ALIGNED WITH THE ONE TRUE GOD: FOLLOW THE LEADER

1. Practice the "agape way"- live a life filled with love.

4 Common Types of Love in the Bible

- Eros: Romantic love or sexual love (disordered form: leads to illicit relationships, treating others as objects and sole sources of our personal needs).
- Storge: Affection or belonging, as shared by family members (disordered form: disdain or ungratefulness; taking for granted).
- Phileo: Friendship and companionship, a love of openness that is occupied with common interests and activities (disordered form: manipulative relationships, one-upmanship, cliques).

 Agape love: A willful choice to put another's interests above one's own; an unselfish giving (even to the point of sacrifice), and unconditional love (with God as its source, it is never disordered; elevates and correctly orders the other four loves, making them human-divine loves that fulfill God's original intentions).

Though He (Jesus) was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Phil. 2:6-8 (NLT)

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. **John 10:10 (NLT)**

2. Start "dressing" the part - pull off and put on.

Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. **Ephesians 5:3 (NLT)**

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

3. Practice being a GOD-pleaser over a people-pleaser.

Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, **expose them**.

Ephesians 5:10-12 (NLT)

...Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32 (NIV)

You (God) will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)

Going deeper on your own: Read Ephesians 5:1-20 slowly and out-loud. Review today's message and ask God to give you ideas about how you can demonstrate agape love to someone this week. Next, write out a list of things from Ephesians 5 that you want to "pull off" and be set free from. Pray and commit them to our Lord, asking Him to forgive you and set you free.