



## Devotional \_\_\_\_\_

Read Ephesians 5:1-17

Ephesians 5:1-2 NKJV

*<sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. <sup>2</sup> 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.*

God is love (see 1 John 4:7-16). His nature is love. Imitating our loving Father means loving one another.

In this passage Paul describes **how Jesus'** love for us motivated His sacrifice, which became a sweet-smelling aroma to God. His love poured out was pleasing to the Father. It came up as an offering to Him.

On the night He was betrayed, after supper, Jesus told his eleven remaining disciples (Judas had already left): John 15:12-13 ***"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."***

He called us to love one another the way He loved us. He loved us so much that He gave up His life for us. This is the greatest act of love, to lay down your life for another. Parents understand this love. A good mom or dad or guardian gladly gives up material things or time to spend it on their child. They find it easy to give preference to their children above themselves. God has called us to be this way toward our Christian brothers and sisters; those we rub shoulders with in our services or attend community group with.

God has called us out of darkness, brought us into His kingdom and made us His children. He has put His love in us (Romans 5:5). Let us now imitate Him and love one another.

### Application

1. What is God saying to you through this passage?
2. Do you walk in love with your brothers and sisters in Christ?
3. What can you do today to show His love to someone else?

### Prayer

Father, thank you for your love for us and for **Jesus' sacrifice for us. Help us to accept** and really know your love for us, so we can love others the same way, **in Jesus'** name. Amen.