

# SERMON NOTES



## Wiii Strengthen Our Relationships

October 13 & 14, 2007

### INTRODUCTION:

#### I. Walk in Love (Ephesians 5:1-2)

*"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma." (Ephesians 5:1-2)*

#### First: The Command

- **Imitate God (Vs. 1)** *"Therefore be imitators of god, as beloved children..."*

*"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)*

*"...but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, 'YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.'" (1 Peter 1:15-16)*

*"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:18)*

*"Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1)*

- **Walk in Love (Vs. 2a)** *"..walk in love..."*

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)*

#### Second: The Example (Vs. 2b)

*"...just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma:*

- Unconditional

*"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)*

- Sacrificial

## II. Live Like Jesus (Phil 2:1-8)

*“Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*  
(Philippians 2:1-8)

### First: What Unity looks like

- A Conformed Mind *“being of the same mind”*
- A Consistent Love *“maintaining the same love”*
- A Common Purpose *“intent on one purpose.”*

### Second: What Unity Requires

- Be Selfless (Vs. 3a) *“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit...”*
- Be Humble (Vs. 3b-4)  
*“Regard others as more important than yourself... Look out for... the interests of others”.*
- Yield Our Rights (Vs. 6-7)  
*“who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself...”*
- Serve others... (Vs. 7b) *“...taking the form of a bond-servant...”*
- Sacrifice for other. (Vs. 8) *“He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*