



# Church of Christ

November 24, 2002

204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

## Heart to Heart...

Does the love of Christ impact your life? To what degree? **“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.”** (Eph. 5:1-2) *“Walk in love”!* That’s what a child of God does. They order their lives in His love, live in His love, and allow His love to determine their thinking and actions. To *walk in love* is to walk with Jesus. Christ loved us and gave of Himself for us, and that love is to impact us to do the same. Paul walked in love, **“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died.”** (II Cor. 5:14) The love of Christ controlled him, his thoughts and actions. Christ’s love moved him to making determinations of what needed to be done in every situation. What about us?

For those who don’t allow the love of Christ to impact them very much, they don’t think in these terms. They just live with whatever comes out normally. When there is little faith involved, there will be little impact of the love of Christ in our lives. To *walk in love* keeps God in the center of our thinking and action. You can make decisions based on what is loving and not what you feel. For instance, someone abuses you verbally, what do we normally do? Fire right back to defend or put them in their place. What would *walking in love* do? **“And while being reviled, He did not revile in return...”** (I Pet. 2:23) Reviling or striking back never helps a situation improve but only causes it to be more loveless! Sometimes we suffer unjustly and what do we do? Complain while lashing out. **“...while suffering, He uttered no threats...”** (I Pet. 2:23) That’s what walking in love would do for us. We have been saved from our sins and our own sinfulness. That’s a blessing beyond description. To possess an eternal place of life that we don’t deserve, is love in action for us. To not be forsaken by God in a world that forsakes God, is love beyond measure. To *walk in love* is to walk with God! Love is a motivating force that moves your heart and soul. To *walk in love* is to motivate your life every single day. It’s the drive behind assembling with the saints to worship their Lord and Maker instead of sleeping in because it’s the only day you have off. It’s the power to find strength and help to do right when there is no reason to treat one right. It’s the strength not to respond in hate or hateful words because it won’t help a godless situation. It’s the character to move forward when there is no one encouraging you.

To come to know the love of God is a wonderful thing, but the *walk in love* is to bring the power of God into your life to affect your thoughts, words spoken and actions. **“So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be fill up to all the fullness of God.”** (Eph. 3:17-19) Let me ask again, how much does the love of Christ impact your life? Think about it!!!

Brent