

**A SELF EXAMINATION
DECEMBER 30, 2018**

2 CORINTHIANS 13:5 (NLT)

Paul instructs these believers to get their eyes off him and on themselves. He told them to look within to determine the condition of their souls. Paul knew it's easy to let spiritual things slip or leak out, to be drawn away and get our eyes off the prize. So he encouraged them to make sure they were in Christ and their hearts were right before God.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27 (AMPC)

Paul did what he told them to do. He too had to stay focused, and discipline his body, for fear of becoming unfit. He knew the importance of exercising himself in spiritual disciplines and keeping his eyes on the finish line.

PHILIPPIANS 3:10-16 (AMPC)

Paul's determined purpose is:

- To know Christ more intimately.
- To experience the power of His resurrection.
- To be transformed into His likeness.
- To attain to the highest level of spiritual development.

Paul knew he wasn't there yet. **V12 (AMPC)**

- Forget what's behind. Past failures or achievements.
- Press on toward the goal. Press means to strive or strain.
- Maintain the proper convictions and attitudes.
- Walk in what we know to do.

EPHESIANS 4:1 (AMPC)

The believer's worthy walk is a walk that corresponds to the life of God within.

- A humble walk. **EPHESIANS 4:2 (AMPC)**
- A walk of unity. **EPHESIANS 4:3**
- Walking toward maturity. **EPHESIANS 4:11-15**
- An enlightened walk. **EPHESIANS 4:17-18**
- Walking in love. **EPHESIANS 5:1-2 (APMC)**

EXAMINING OUR LOVE WALK

Believers are to imitate God by walking in love as children imitate their father. Here Paul reveals the mandate, the motive and the model of the love walk.

- Mandate – "Imitate God by walking in love."
- Motive – "God loved us."
- Model – "Christ sacrificed His life."

WHAT WALKING IN LOVE INCLUDES: EPHESIANS 4

- Being truthful. **V25**
- Control our anger. **V26 - 27**
- Not stealing, but working. **V28**
- Speaking words that edify. **V29-30**
- Put away attitudes that destroy relationships. **V31**
- Practice kindness, compassion and forgiveness. **V32**

IN SUMMARY. 1 JOHN 2:6, MATTNEW 5:44-48

To live a life of love is to imitate our Father and walk as Jesus walked.

- Love those who oppose us.
- Forgive those who abuse us.
- Have compassion on those who are weak.
- Serve without being repaid.
- Befriend the discouraged and downtrodden.
- Share the gospel with those who are lost.