

ALIGNING WITH THE WILL OF GOD – 7
FEBRUARY 19, 2023

REVIEW:

God wills all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, be Spirit filled, maintain a Spirit filled life, be water baptized, sanctified, support God's work, follow Christ daily, serve, live by faith.

CONTINUE: Walk in love (EPH. 5:1-2 HCSB)

IMITATING GOD

Growing in God is growing in love and out of selfishness. God is love, so imitating love is imitating God. To imitate means to follow as a model, to copy. Jesus is our model. We love "even as" Christ loved us. Christ loved us sacrificially by laying down His life for us. We are to lay down our lives also (**1 JOHN 3:16**). Love is to be the driving force behind all the activities of our lives. If it's not, then remember **1 COR. 13:1-3**. Without love being his motivation, "I am nothing, making a lot of noise, to no profit".

THE SCOPE OF LOVE (MK. 12:30-31)

We are to love God, ourselves, our neighbor, and if we really want to imitate God and be spiritually mature, our enemy (**MT. 5:43-48**). To be perfect "even as" our Father is, we must love our enemies. **ROM. 5:5-8 AMPC**

LOVE DEFINED (JOHN 3:16)

Love is agapao, agape. It means unconditional love that's based on principle and decision, not just feeling and emotion. When saved, agape exploded in our hearts. This is the only way we can love our enemies. Agape is to regulate our lives and control our conversation, character and conduct.

OUR MOTIVATION

1. Assures us of our salvation (**1 JOHN 3:14-15 NLT**).
2. Shows we belong to the truth (**1 JOHN 3:17-19a NLT**).
3. Gives us confidence to stand before God (**1 JOHN 3:19b-21 (NLT)**).
4. Helps us receive from God (**1 JOHN 3:22 NLT**).
5. Keeps us in fellowship with God (**1 JOHN 3:24 NLT**).
6. Agape never fails (**1 COR. 13:7-8 J.B. PHILLIPS**).

INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY (EPH 4:11-16 HCSB)

Individually, agape is to be the motivating force behind all that we do. Collectively, we are to be a living organism of love, so we can effectively evangelize the world. Eternal life is all about knowing God (**JOHN 17:3, 1 JOHN 4:7-8**).

MILK AND MEAT (1 COR. 3:1-3)

Paul used natural growth to illustrate spiritual growth. Babies begin with milk and progress to meat, or solid food. The same is true spiritually.

1. Milk drinkers: **1 PETER 2:2** new born; **HEB. 5:12-14** the unskilled in righteousness, and perpetual babes.
2. Meat eaters: **HEB. 5:14** those who move from infancy to spiritual adulthood and maturity who train hard to keep their senses under control and let God's love control their lives.

CONCLUSION:

2 COR. 5:10-17 NLT Love is to control our lives, when we stand before Jesus, He won't think we were crazy to love others as He loved us.