

The New Way of Love

Scripture Reading — Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. — Ephesians 4:32

I hope that this month's consideration of "Loving One Another" has been showing that being a follower of Christ Jesus makes a difference in the way we live!

In the verses we have read today, we find some contrasts between our old ways of living and the new way of living in Christ. Though we are "made new" and "created to be like God in true righteousness," this is an ongoing process that is not completed in this life.

Today's reading gives reasons for our being called to live as "members of one body." We must live by the truth and avoid giving the devil any kind of foothold in our lives.

Because we can still be tempted to sin, we must pay attention to Paul's strong warnings about anger, stealing, unwholesome talk, and grieving the Holy Spirit. We all can strive to be kinder and more compassionate, doing "what is helpful for building others up according to their needs."

And who has not harbored bitterness in their heart? What about "rage and anger, brawling and slander"?

Instead we must be mindful of "forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave [us]." In the Holy Spirit's power, we truly can "follow God's example" and "walk in the way of love."

Prayer

Spirit of God, empower us to understand more clearly your call to acts of kindness and compassion. Guide us to be forgiving and loving, like Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

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