

The Lord's Day Morning

October 22, 1944

“Be Followers of God”
Scripture Lesson – Ephesians 5:1-17
Text – Ephesians 5:1-2

The Reverend Dr. Girard Lowe

Introduction:

1. I fear sometimes that we ministers challenge our people to very high ideals without first giving them a good reason and sufficient motive for leaving all and following Him.
2. Here in the text, Paul calls the Ephesians to be followers of God as dear children.
 - a. He tells us why we should be
 - b. He tells us how

I. As Christ hath loved us and given Himself for us

1. Love of God came into conflict with hate of the world.
 - a. God might have left world in its lost state of selfishness and hate, but in love He sent Christ into the world.
 - b. This brought conflict between Christ and Satan.
 1. Satan opposed love of God
 - c. The temptations
 1. Turn stones to bread. Christ's love for God and man would permit no selfishness to enter into His life.
 2. Cast self from temple. Christ would win His place as Lord by love not sensationalism.
 3. Worship Satan. He loved God and man and would only become King because God crowned Him due to His service in love for man by dying on the cross.
2. Christ's life was an expression of love of God
 - a. To hated Romans
 1. Jews hated Romans but Christ ministered to them
 - b. Disease
 1. Jews did nothing about it
 2. Christ in love healed
 - c. Hunger
 1. World of His day allowed people to be hungry and said could do nothing about it
 2. He fed the multitudes
 - d. Ritualism and show in religion
 1. Jews did it for praise
 2. Christ showed it must be done in love
 - e. Selfishness
 1. Challenged rich young ruler to love

3. This love faced hatred of Jews
 - a. Jews took Him and had Him crucified
4. He died for us
 - a. From – Creative Controversies in Christianity – page 43 – George W. Richards, D. D., LLD., Th.D.

“Anatole France wrote a tract on ‘The Procurator of Judea’ in which he shows ‘both insight of a historian and the master-touch of a great artist.’ He represents Pilate as resting at Baiae and conversing with his friend Lamia. When Lamia asked him how it was with Jesus and His crucifixion, Pilate thought for a moment, shook his head, and replied, ‘I cannot remember the affair.’ Jesus was only one of thousands who suffered the fate which Roman proconsuls regarded as a trifling matter.”

1. To the Roman centurion and his band He was one of many they had put to death.
2. To Pilate it may have been an incident to be forgotten.
- b. But the world has never known of a more important event in all of its history.
 1. Here was God in love dying for man
 2. We should ever keep this in mind, when we are challenged to follow Christ.
 3. He loved us and gave Himself for us

II. Follow Him and walk in love

1. What His love did
 - a. Philippians 2:8
2. Self-renunciation
 - a. Made Himself of no reputation
 - b. We should be willing to forget self and in love serve God and our fellowman
3. Service
 - a. Christ served as we have seen
 1. Hated Romans
 2. Outcast lepers
 3. Discouraged sick
 4. Sinners
4. Humility – took form of servant
 - a. Did not demand high place
 - b. He ministered wherever love was needed
 1. Poem – from NOW

“Dear Lord, I do not ask
That Thou should’st give me some high work of Thine,
Some noble calling, or some wondrous task,
Give me a little hand to hold in mine:
Give me a little child to point the way
Over the strange, sweet path that leads to Thee;

Give me a little voice to teach to pray;
Give me two shining eyes Thy face to see.
The only crown I ask, dear Lord, to wear
Is this: That I may teach a little child.
I do not ask that I may ever stand
Among the wise, the worthy, or the great;
I only ask that softly, hand in hand,
A child and I may enter at the gate.”

5. Sacrifice, obedience even unto Cross
 - a. Where love dictated He went and did

Conclusion:

1. As He loved us let us love
2. As He served in love let us follow Him