

**I. Introduction.**

- A. Those who are saved by grace through faith in Christ are expected to behave in a certain way (see Eph. 4:1).**
- B. If you claim to be a Christian you must “walk” – think and act – as Jesus did (see 1 John 2:6).**
- C. Our “walk” isn’t going to be perfect (see Rom. 3:23), but it better be decent; we should be doing our best to live an exemplary life – to behave decently.**

**II. Decent Christian Behavior.**

- A. Pay your debts (v.8).**
  - 1. Be as debt free as possible.**
  - 2. Use credit cards wisely.**
- B. Love one another (v.8).**
  - 1. Our “love debt” can never be paid in full.**
  - 2. The word “love” can mean different things.**
  - 3. “Agape” love (the love in question) is an unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial love; it’s the kind of love Jesus has for us.**
  - 4. “Agape” love is a fruit of the Spirit (see Gal. 5:22).**
  - 5. If and when we love sincerely (see Rom. 12:9), if and when we get love right, everything else will be right.**
- C. Love your neighbor as yourself (v.9,10).**
  - 1. How love works: God loves us ...we love God ...God enables us to love ourselves and others.**
  - 2. To love my neighbor the way I should, I need to love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength AND I need to love myself in a godly way.**
  - 3. My neighbor is anyone I come in contact with ...anyone God puts in my path (see Luke 10:25-37).**
  - 4. How do we treat our neighbors?**
- D. Live in anticipation of Christ’s return (v.11-14).**
  - 1. When Jesus returns our redemption in him will be complete (see Rom. 8:23; 1 John 3:2; and Phil. 3:21).**
  - 2. Christ’s return may be closer than we think.**
  - 3. We have only so much time to live for the Lord and store up treasures in heaven (see Matt. 6:20).**
  - 4. One day we will stand before Jesus and he will evaluate our Christian life (2 Cor. 5:10).**
  - 5. Will we be confident and unashamed before him?**