

## **Walk This Way**

### Part 4 - Walk In Love

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**Read:** Matthew 16:18b, "...Upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."

In the original Greek text, the term church, or "Ekklesia," meant *a spiritually growing gathering of believers*. In another sense, the church is the people, not a place. Another translation of Matthew 16:18 reads, "This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out." Jesus began a revolution in an obscure little part of the planet and nobody will be able to stop the church.

#### **Reflect**

What does the word "church" mean to you; what do you associate with that term?

**Read:** Acts 5:42, "...in the temple courts and from house to house..."

The New Testament church was about relationships.

- They met in the temple courts, in rows, for worship and teaching.
- They also in each others' homes, in circles, for the "one another's". They found life and encouragement in the relationships they made.

Relational "One Another's" of the New Testament Church:

- Encourage one another. Jesus knew that there would be times that we would be down and we would need to be lifted.
- Prayer for one another. Jesus knew that we would face real challenges that only a miracle would see us through. Prayer is the most powerful force on earth.
- Serve one another.
- Show hospitality to one another.
- Honor one another.
- Forgive one another. Jesus knew that people living in proximity to one another would require forgiveness.
- Accept one another.
- Bear one another's burdens. Sometimes life is a challenge and you need your friends to share the load.
- Stir up one another. We all need to be reminded and challenged from time to time.
- Rejoice together.

#### **Reflect**

Which "one another" have you experienced in the church? How did it impact your life?

**Read:** John 13:34-35, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

#### **Summary**

Jesus sums up all of the "one anothers" in His command to "love one another." He tells us that others will know us as Christians by our love. Jesus is serious about relationships. How can you enhance a specific relationship in your life?

#### **Prayer**

Make time to pray for one another before you dismiss your group.