



AWCI SERMON NOTE & *Announcements*

DATE: Feb. 15th, 2026

SPEAKER: Bishop (Dr.) Vincent Collins

SERMON SERIES:

SERMON TITLE: Love That Looks Like Something-Living Differently in a World That's Watching

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INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND, AND SCRIPTURE, SERMON POINTS

Ephesians 5:1-10 (NJKV) 5 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. 3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For [a]this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the [b]Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

INTRODUCTION

When God calls us to love Him with all our heart, He is not simply shaping our devotion—He is shaping our witness. This love was never meant to be silent, hidden, or confined to the four walls of a church. It was designed to be seen, felt, and experienced by a world searching for light in dark places.

For African Americans, this truth has never been abstract theology; it has been lived history. Our ancestors loved God in fields where no sanctuary existed, worshiped without pulpits, and sang faith into existence when laws and systems denied their humanity. Their love for God was not private—it was public resistance. They may not have always had a Bible in their hands, but they carried God in their hearts, and that love showed up in how they endured, forgave, hoped, and kept moving forward when everything said they should quit. Their faith preached when their voices were restricted, and their lives became sermons no chains could silence.

SERMON POINTS

1. Loving God Starts With Walking With Him

The world may not read the Bible, but it is always reading us.

- Micah 6:8: “What does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”
- Ephesians 5: “Be imitators of God as dear children, and walk in love, as Christ also has loved us.”
- John 14:15: “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”
- Proverbs 3:5–6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart... acknowledge Him in all your ways...”
- Amos 3:3: “Can two walk together unless they are agreed?”

2. Loving God Shapes Who We Are on the Inside

Identity That Refuses to Blend In

- Ephesians 5:8: “You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”
- 1 Peter 2:9: “You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people.”
- Galatians 1:10: “If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.”
- Galatians 5:26: “Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”
- Colossians 3:10: “Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its Creator.”

3. Loving God Shows Up in How We Love People

A Faith the World Can Feel

- Matthew 5:14–16: “You are the light of the world... let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
- John 13:34–35: “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- Luke 19:10: “The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
- Matthew 9:36–37: “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:18–20: “We have been given the ministry of reconciliation and are called ambassadors for Christ.”

BEYOND THE MESSAGE

Loving God begins with walking with Him, because intimacy with God always shapes how we live and how we love. When we walk humbly with God day by day, His presence influences our pace, our priorities, and our decisions. Our faith moves from being something we visit on Sundays to something that guides us daily—in our homes, our conversations, and our choices.

This walk with God transforms relationships, bringing patience into our marriages, wisdom into our parenting, and grace into our interactions. Walking with God is not about information we receive, but transformation we live, as we learn to listen, obey, and move in step with His Spirit.

As we walk with God, our identity in Christ becomes secure, and we stop striving to prove ourselves or compare ourselves to others. Rooted in who God says we are, we are freed from competition, coveting, and the need for validation. Instead of insecurity, the Fruit of the Spirit begins to flow naturally from our lives—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and self-control—evidence that we are connected to Christ. Our faith becomes authentic and steady, marked not by performance, but by purpose. When people look at our lives, they see not perfection, but confidence anchored in Christ and character shaped by His presence.

