

Series: The Wealth and Walk of a Christian
"Imitating Our Father" # 17
Eph. 5:1-17
11-26-17 Sun AM & Sun PM

1. The word "followers" in Eph. 5:1 is the word "mimic" or "imitate." Paul sets forth the truth that children often mimic their parents "as dear children."

2. This truth sets forth our next section [5:1-17] in the larger section of walking in holiness [4:17-5:17].

The Truth of our Text is that we imitate our Father, by walking in love [vs. 1-2], walking in Light [vs. 3-14], and walking in wisdom [vs. 15-17].

I. Walking in love [vs. 1-2]. "therefore" because God has forgiven us [4:32], we should act differently. Why are we to walk in love?

1. We are God's child [v. 1b].

We are partakers of a divine nature [2 Pet. 1:4] and since God is love, it is the Christians nature to do the same.

The old man is selfish, while the new man is loving. We should want to show our love to Him by expressing His love to others.

Walking in love does not mean we overlook sin and compromise truth [Rom. 12:9].

2. We are purchased with a great price [v. 2].

Our love for Him is a response to His love for us. Christ not only laid down his life for his friends, but also His enemies.

Christ's sacrifice on the cross was well-pleasing to the Father "sweet-savor." Christ's death on the cross satisfied the offended holiness of God and therefore is acceptable and satisfactory for us to come to Him in faith in the finished work of Christ.

I. Walking in love [vs. 1-2].

II. Walking in Light [vs. 3-14].

1. We are not to walk in darkness [vs. 3-7].

Because we are saints "separated ones" holy by position, we are not to walk in the old man. It is beneath us to indulge in the sins of darkness [v. 3-4].

a. *Sexual sins* [v. 3]. Fornication, uncleanness? Sexual immorality. Covetousness? Uncontrolled sensual appetite [I John 2:16].

b. *Speech sins* [v.4].

Filthiness, foolish, nor jesting? Sins of the tongue that are obscene, degrading and dirty.

Those who have these base appetites [v. 3]. Usually reveal it in their speech [v. 4].

Warren Wiersbe says, "Two indicators of a person's character are what makes them laugh and what makes them weep."

Anyone who practices these sins as a pattern will not see heaven [vs. 5-6; Gal. 5:21]. Habit or persistent. No regenerate heart.

These reflect those listed in verse 3. Whoremonger is where we get the word "pornography." Some were claiming to be saved and living these lifestyles in Paul's day.

Paul said not to be deceived [v. 6]. They claimed to be saved but their profession was empty [v.6a, 8].

We are not to partake with any of their wickedness [v.7]. The word partakers means fellowship or partnership. It literally means, "stop becoming joint partakers with their deeds."

2. We are to walk in light [vs. 8-14].

Notice what Paul says [v.8a]. Paul did not say that we were "in the darkness," but we "were darkness," or "once darkness."

Darkness describes the character of the unconverted life. Satan rules over this darkness and they all are headed for Eternal darkness.

We are light in the Lord and we can't be partakers of darkness [v. 8b]. Why? We are partakers of...

A divine nature [2 Pet. 1:4]

God's promises [Eph. 3:6].

Christ's sufferings [1 Pet. 4:13].

Holiness [Heb. 12:10].

Heavenly calling [Heb. 3:1]

God's Glory [1 Pet. 5:1].

Q- What does it mean to walk in light [vs. 8-13]?

It means to live our life transparent before God with nothing to hide [v. 8a]. We are to reveal God's light in our daily life [v. 8c]. We are light and we are to live the transformed life before others.

Light reveals God and produces fruit [v. 9], light reveals truth and exposes error [vs. 10-14].

Christians are not to have anything to do with the evil works of darkness [v. 11a]. We are not to have joint participation, common interest, or activity in evil works.

We are to reprove them [v. 11b]. To charge or confront with the truth to expose error. We are not only to reject evil but expose it.

Paul gives an invitation to the lost to come to the light [v.14].

Paul quotes **Isaiah 60:1-3** where it talks about Israel awaking to a new day in the Millennium. He gives a invitation to come to the light and awake to a new day.

"Arise from the dead" and "give thee light." These are terms that deal with the lost.

I. Walking in love

II. Walking in Light

III. Walking in Wisdom [vs. 15-17]. "Seeing then"

1. What does circumspectly mean?

Walk looking around carefully as not to stumble. Walk smart and not in ignorance. Many walk foolish stumbling thru life not seeking God's will. They walk with no guidance.

Not drifting thru life sleep walking, but make the most of every opportunity God gives us.

2. Why?

1. *It is a mark of wisdom* [v. 15b]. The wise walk is a walk that puts Jesus at the center of our day. We are to imitate our Father by walking in love and the light.

2. *Our days are numbered* [v. 16a].

Redeeming the time? means to "buy up the time," or "make the most of your time." Don't waste time on those things outside His will.

Time? Greek word does not mean clock time, but a measured or fixed period of time, a season or epoch.

God has preset boundaries of our lives, and our opportunities for service exist in those boundaries. We are to make the most of all the time we have and devote it to the Lord.

3. *The days are evil* [v. 16b].

We have little time and much opposition. How it must break God's heart to see us blow the opportunities he sends our way to make an eternal difference.

4. *Understand the will of God* [v. 17].

Because our days are numbered, because the days are evil, it should drive us to understand the will of God.

God's will is found thru Scriptures, Saints, Spirit, and situations. His will is we be saved, sanctified, submissive, suffering, and service.