



IN EPHESIANS

CHRIST

Lesson #39

Walking in Love

(Ephesians 5:1-7)

IMPORTANT “Therefore’s” 11x in chapters 4-6.

- **THEREFORE THIS IS HOW YOU ARE LIVE!**
- (Ephesians 5:1) **THEREFORE** walk worthy of your calling.

Walking As A Christian

- The Christian life is likened to a walk. Walk is just another word for “live” but with a bit more meaning.
- “to walk” is περιπατέω (peripateo) and it means “to make one’s way, to progress, to live, to regulate one’s life, to conduct one’s self, to behave, to live day-by-day.
- “to walk” signifies:
 - ❶ A voluntary act.
 - ❷ A steady advance toward a GOAL - see Ephesians 4:13.
 - ❸ A direction or a pursuit. . διώκω dioko {dee-o'-ko} - “to run swiftly in order to catch someone or something”; “to seek after eagerly, earnestly to acquire”
 - Holy living in the fear of God. (Hebrews 12:14; 2 Cor 7:1)
 - Peace with all men, especially your brothers and sisters. (Hebrews 12:14; Romans 14:19; 1 Peter 3:11)
 - Agape love for our brothers and sisters and our enemies. (1 Corinthians 14:1; Matthew 5:44)
 - Those things that edify one another. (Romans 14:19; 15:2; Eph 4:29)
 - The good for all. (1 Thessalonians 5:15)
 - Righteousness (1 Tim 6:11; Matthew 5:6; 6:33; Rom 10:3)
 - Godliness (1 Timothy 6:11; 1 Timothy 4:7-8; Titus 2:12)
 - Faith (1 Timothy 6:11; Luke 17:5; Acts 16:5)
 - Gentleness (1 Timothy 6:11; Ephesians 4:2; Philippians 4:5)

➤ Endurance/Perseverance/Patience (1 Timothy 6:11; **Matt 10:22**; 13:21; 24:13; Mark 13:13)

❹ A progress

- “Walking” is something first LEARNED (i.e. military) and then done without effort.
- In Matthew 7:13-14, Christ taught that there was a “narrow gate” to enter into **and** a “difficult way” to “walk”.
 - ➔ To “ways” or “walks” of life:
 - ★ The broad way that leads to destruction.
 - ☆ The narrow way that leads to life.
- Paul uses this concept of “walking” in many of his letters:
 - ➔ “we also should walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4)
 - ➔ “there is no condemnation to those . . . who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit” (Rom 8:1, 4)
 - ➔ “Let us walk properly . . .” Romans 13:13
 - ➔ “We walk by faith, not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7
 - ➔ “Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)
 - ➔ “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” (Gal 5:25)
 - ➔ We were saved unto good works “which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)
 - ➔ “...walk worthy” of your calling. (Ephesians 4:1)
 - ➔ “you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles” (Eph 4:17)
 - ➔ “Walk as children of light.” (Ephesians 5:8)
 - ➔ “Walk circumspectly.” (Ephesians 5:15)
 - ➔ “As you have received Christ . . . walk in Him.” (Colossians 2:6)
 - ➔ Paul exhorted the Thessalonians how to walk and to please God. (1 Thessalonians 4:1)

Imitate God (Ephesians 5:1)

- “to imitate” is the word μιμητής mimetes {mim-ay-tace} and it means to “mimic” - “to copy specific characteristics of another person”. PRESENT TENSE-MIDDLE VOICE-IMPERATIVE MOOD.
- (1 John 2:6) Those who have been born-again are obligated to “walk **just as** He (Christ) walked.” (See 1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 1:6-7)
- (1 Peter 1:13-16) As obedient children we are “to be holy in all our conduct” - just as God is holy.
- The more we mature the more we find how far short we fall in this command. Therefore, we need to pray for strength as we learned in praying Ephesians 3:14-21 and Colossians 1:9-11.

Walk in Love (Ephesians 5:2)

- “walk in love” - PRESENT TENSE-ACTIVE VOICE-IMPERATIVE MOOD.
- The STANDARD and EXAMPLE: “**as** Christ has loved us and gave Himself” – John 13:34-35
 - His love was demonstrated in giving His life for His friends. (John 15:13-14; 10:18)
 - (1 John 3:16) Biblical love is sacrificial-giving love. It is giving our lives to the brethren - **just as** Christ **gave Himself** for us! (Gal 1:4; 2:20; Titus 2:14) Biblical love denies self and serves others. (Matthew 20:28; John 13:1-17)
 - (1 John 3:18) Biblical love loves not in words but in deed and in truth.
 - His love was demonstrated in his forgiveness. Forgiveness is the supreme evidence of “walking in love”. (Eph 4:32; Col 3:13)
 - ♥ If Christ forgave us of ALL our many sins, we can easily forgive our brothers and sisters their sins against us.
 - ♥ If Christ gave Himself, in love, when we were still sinners, then we can love our enemies. (Rom 5:10; Col 1:21;)
 - ♥ If Christ can forgive us unconditionally, then our forgiveness and love must be unconditional. (1 John 2:12; Isaiah 43:25)
 - (1 Corinthians 13:4-8) Paul, moved by the Holy Spirit, describes Biblical love.
 - (1 Peter 4:8) Our love must be “fervent” -- ἐκτενής ektenes {ek-ten-ace'} and means “to stretch out” – it has the idea of a runner “stretching out at the finish line to win the race” – It says, love the brethren with ALL you have!
 - (1 John 3:14-15) If we do not love the brethren, then we are not born again. (1 John 5:1-2; 4:7-8, 12)

DO NOT WALK (Ephesians 5:3-5)

- With today’s world’s obsession with sex and immorality, Paul’s warning in these verses need to be taken serious.
- In verses 3-4 Paul lists those sins (mostly sexually immoral) which will keep one OUT of the kingdom of God. (See also **Galatians 5:19-21**; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)
- In Colossians 3:5; Paul commands that we “put to death” these kind of sins.
- Notice that these sins include how we speak and what we do.

Do Not Be Deceived (Ephesians 5:6)

- NONE of the sins in verses 3-5 are fitting for saints.
- (Ephesians 5:6) **LET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU WITH EMPTY WORDS.**
 - This was written as a warning to believers!!!**
- Other warnings: Colossians 2:4, 8
- Jude warned his readers about “ungodly men” who crept in **unnoticed** who turned the grace of God into **lewdness!** (Jude 4)
- The world’s obsession with sex has made its way into the churches of the 21st Century. What once was “not fitting for saints” is now accepted or ignored.
- Throughout all of church history the church has compromised and followed the way of the world rather than following and clinging to the **written** Word of God.

Final Exhortation (Ephesians 5:7)

- **DO NOT BE PARTAKERS WITH THEM.**

Walking As a Disciple of Christ

- ① IMITATE GOD. (Ephesians 5:1; 1 Corinthians 11:1)
- ② Be holy in all that we do. (1 Peter 1:13-16)
- ③ Love each other fervently. (1 Peter 4:8; 1 John 3:16-18; 4:11)
- ④ Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Romans 12:1-2)

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