

Walking in Daddy's Shoes

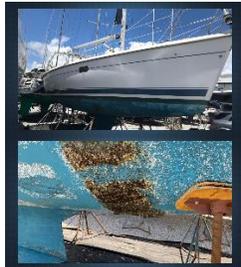
Kevin Freeman / General

One In Christ / Christlike / Ephesians 5:1-21

Christians are called to imitate their heavenly Father in their Christian walk, but that requires the elimination of sin and the embrace of what we have through Christ.



Introduction



NOW

Barnacles impede the progress of ships

How they cause problems

Add weight, increase drag

Require up to 40% more fuel

How they attach

Begin free-floating in the water

Sense objects and detect stickiness, other barnacles

Prevention & removal

No great ways to prevent barnacles on a ship (dry docking could help),



some regular treatments exist

Regular scraping away is required

Barnacles in our lives

Christian life described not as a boat voyage but as a walk (sometimes a run)

Barnacles prevent us from living as we are called.

They attract other barnacles - some Christians are identified targets for sin barnacles.

Weigh us down and reduce our effectiveness



Pursuit of life that pleases God is hampered by other desires that we give into.

THEN

Paul warned the Ephesian church of this problem.

(Turn to [Ephesians 5](#))

The high flowing power of our salvation in the first chapter might lead one to think Christians would live free of temptation.

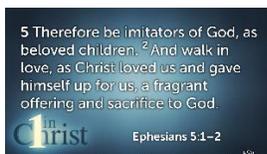
But they lived in a culture filled with immorality, pursuit of selfish gain, idolized pleasure

ALWAYS

To walk in our Father's footsteps, we must eliminate sin and pursue God's will.

15 imperatives in our passage.

Hang on 3 commands about our walk.



Ephesians 5:1-2 ESV

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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Walk in Love

Verses continue [Eph 4:32](#)



Ephesians 4:32 ESV

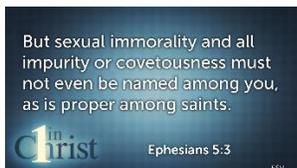
³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.



God's forgiveness toward us is the basis for our imitating Him, and our love mirrors Christ's love.

That's what we do above the surface, but beneath the surface are the barnacles...

v 3



Ephesians 5:3 ESV

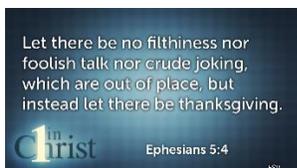
³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

To experience God's forgiveness through the sacrifice of God's Son for sins which we then continue doing is incompatible with the Christian walk.

These things must not even be named among us

We justify our actions because there's always a bigger offender. "You know who needs to hear this..."

v 4



Ephesians 5:4 ESV

⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

Begins with filthiness, foolish talk, crude joking

Obscenity - disgraceful speech; foolish talk - seeming wittiness that is degrading others, objectifying others and debasing ourselves; crude joking - inappropriate jokes, suggestive speech

"All three terms refer to a dirty mind expressing itself in vulgar conversation. This kind of language must be avoided as utterly inappropriate among those whom God has set apart as holy."

-Peter O'Brien

"All three terms refer to a dirty mind expressing itself in vulgar conversation. This kind of language must be avoided as utterly inappropriate among those whom God has set apart as holy." -Peter O'Brien

"Out of place"

Antidote is thanksgiving - can't cheapen the beautiful things of God and be thankful. Thanksgiving is thankfulness expressed. Expressed in our speech.

v 5

For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

in Christ

Ephesians 5:5

ESV

Ephesians 5:5 ESV

⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ

and God.

Inheritance in God's kingdom is at stake!

Every believer finds salvation through the forgiveness found in Christ - salvation by grace through faith (2:8-9)

But those who belong to Christ will live for Him.

v 6

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

in Christ

Ephesians 5:6

ESV

Ephesians 5:6 ESV

⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Deceit through empty words

So saturated with empty words

Culture says it's no big deal

Therapists say it's misplaced shame & guilt

HR department, school board, politicians all promote alternative lifestyles

But they are empty words!

God's wrath comes on "the sons of disobedience"

Comes - Present & future sense

Don't even realize what has been lost or what is coming

People on a diet cannot binge on unhealthy foods. Those nullify the health benefits of the diet.

The Church is described as the Bride of Christ. No person wants a spouse who embraces unfaithfulness with others. It nullifies the professed love.

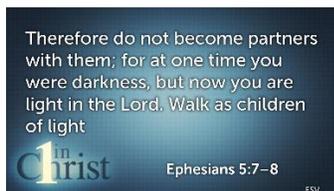
You cannot walk in love while tolerating practices that go against God's love.

Someone was meant to hear this today.



Walk in Light

vv 7-8



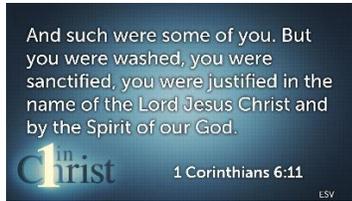
Ephesians 5:7-8 ESV

⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Do not become "partners" - You aren't a "son of disobedience." You are a child of light!

You aren't a son of disobedience. You are a child of light!

To experience God's forgiveness through the sacrifice of God's Son for sins which we then continue doing is incompatible with the Christian walk.



1 Corinthians 6:11 ESV

¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.



Light produces fruit

v9



Ephesians 5:9 ESV

⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

Indoor herb garden - light comes on and off, bringing

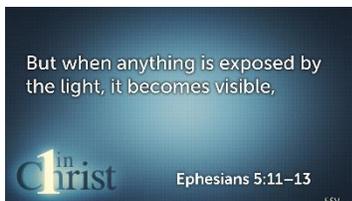
growth



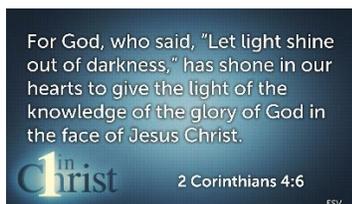
Contrast with the unfruitful works of darkness (v 11)

Light brings visibility

Ephesians 5:11–13 ESV



¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible,



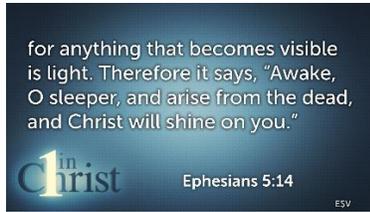
2 Corinthians 4:6 ESV

⁶ For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus

Christ.

Where do you shine the light? Your own heart, mutually with your spouse, your family, with people in your grace group. So concerned with “out there,” but what about “in here”?

You walk as a child of light because the light of Christ has shined on you.



Ephesians 5:14 ESV

¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Ever try to navigate in the dark? Dangerous for pinkie toes.

Youth sardines game

God's children aren't meant to walk in the dark. They shine in it.

Carry yourself as one who knows you are a child of light.

Light-bringer, bring light



Walk with Care

Ephesians 5:15-16 ESV

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Does anyone need convincing that the days are evil?

Don't walk willy nilly. Walk with purpose. Walk as a wise one would walk.

We are navigating a world that is full of land mines

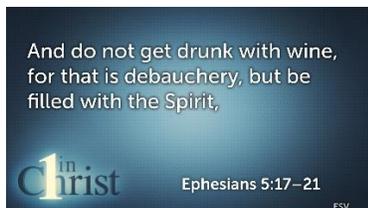
Land mines cause thousands of casualties each year.

Two million land mines in Cambodia. People stop working the land and developing it for fear of detonating the mines.



African giant pouched rats have been trained to detect the mines. A rat can search a 2,000 square foot area in 20 minutes - something a person would take 4 days to complete.

If you want to walk with wisdom in Cambodia, you'll walk only where a rat has cleared the way.



Ephesians 5:17-21 ESV

¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹

addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Walking with wisdom means changing how we approach our own relationships.

Be filled with God's Spirit instead of becoming intoxicated.

Influence of alcohol here. Many other similar influences fit under debauchery. Drugs, decadence, living in our entertainment culture.

“Debauchery” - *débaucher* (French), meaning “to tempt away from duty.” *bauch* (old German) for beam. Something structural. Debauchery removes structural support.

God's Spirit isn't a depressant. We are empowered by God in us.

Address people differently

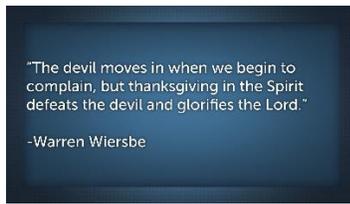
Why don't we do this?

Singing is involved - our corporate worship is meant to be together to help one another.

Inane speech. "How are you?" "I'm good." "Take care."

How about, "It's good to see a fellow Christ follower such as yourself."
"Grace be with you"

Thankfulness and mutual submission



The devil moves in when we begin to complain, but thanksgiving in the Spirit defeats the devil and glorifies the Lord. -Warren Wiersbe

Come together to express thankfulness right now in remembrance of what Christ did. We will give thanks as children of light who are meant to walk with care in the love of Christ.



The Lord's Supper