

I) V1-2 Therefore be **imitators** of God as dear children. And *walk in love*, as Christ also

We are looking at the **walk of the believer**, which speaks of **behavior**

II) In scripture, the idea of ordering our steps or **walking carefully** is often spoken of

This is because believers are to live in a way that aligned with God's will

III) Because we are believers, we understand that God is the One who guides us in life

Jer 10:23 I know, O Lord, that the way of man **is not in himself**, that it is not in man who walks **to direct his steps**.

IV) Paul has been writing concerning the walk of the believer

He has pointed out that who we are in Jesus informs us in the way we should live

As those seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (2:6), we live a different kind of life

V) Before we were saved, we walked according to the course of this world

This is because we were captives of Satan and disobedient to the things of God

Eph 2:2 you **once walked** according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience

VI) Instead of living as sons of disobedience, believers are to live to please God

1 Th 4:1 Finally then, brothers, we ask and encourage you in the Lord Jesus, that as you have received from us how you must **walk and please God**—as you are doing—do so even more.

IV) To please God refers to the idea of **willing service** to God and to others

It pleases God when, instead of serving ourselves, we enjoy serving Him and others

V) Because we desire to please God, believers have a different kind of life

Paul goes on to give identifying marks of the one who walks with God
Eph 2:10 The believer, because of who they are in Christ, walk in good works

VI) Eph 4:1 The believer, because of who He is, walks worthy of the calling
2 Ti 1:9 (He) has saved us and called us with a *holy calling*, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began

VII) Eph 4:17 we are not to walk in the futility of our minds
We were once in spiritual darkness, living in an imaginary reality
But God has illuminated us and we no longer walk in darkness
2 Sa 22:29 For You are my lamp, O Lord; And the Lord illumines my darkness.

I) Eph 5:8 says that believers are light in the Lord, so they walk as children of light
We once lived in darkness, but now we live as children of light
Phil 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom *you shine as lights* in the world

II) Eph 5:15 tells us that we are to walk *circumspectly*
This speaks of being careful, being on the alert but also accurately
Because we are aware of dangers, we order our lives properly and wisely

III) Eph 5:1 In this passage, we are commanded to be *imitators* of God and to *walk in love*

IV) In Ch 4 Paul clearly described the life of a genuine Christian
We walk in humility, gentleness, longsuffering, and lovingly bear with one another
We do our best to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

V) We remember that we are united in Jesus, both Jew and Gentile
We exercise our spiritual gifts, and through proper teaching are equipped for service
We also avoid false teachings, and speak the truth in love

VI) We are part of the body of Christ, and because we are equipped, we do our share
We have been taught the truth, because the truth is in Jesus

VII) This has changed the way we live, so we put off the old man and are renewed in the spirit

We have been created in true righteousness and holiness, and this changed our lives

We no longer lie to one another, we do not give in to improper anger, and do not steal

VIII) The way that we speak has also been transformed

We do not use profanity, improper speech, or sexual innuendo

IX) Instead, we speak words of edification and impart grace to one another

This grace that fills our lives makes it possible to share the gospel with others

Col 4:6 Let your conversation be always **full of grace**, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

X) Instead of bitterness that leads to malice, we as believers put on kindness

We become tenderhearted, and forgiving to one another

This is because God, in Christ, **forgave us**

XI) V1 Therefore be imitators of God as dead children

Since God has forgiven us of all our sins, as His children we should imitate Him

Imitators: Mimic; imitate His actions, speech and motivations

I) Sometimes our kids reveal the depth of their love for us in that they want to be like us

II) One of the saddest things I have heard came out of the heart of a young man

He said to me: I don't want to be **anything** like my father

III) Believers are told to be imitators of their Father

IV) V2 gives us His chief characteristic: And *walk in love*, as Christ also has loved us

What is the chief characteristic of love: sacrifice

V) Paul speaks of Jesus giving Himself as an offering and a sacrifice

OFFERING: Normally is used of a grain offering

Grain is given as a gift in a peace offering representing, reconciliation

VI) **SACRIFICE:** Speaks of animal sacrifice and refers to Jesus' death for us

Jn 10:17-18 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life -- only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

VII) Notice how we are to be imitators of God and to **walk in love**, even as Christ loved us

What does this mean: Love for God and others contains sacrifice and service

VIII) Loving God and others are shown by caring acts of sacrifice and service
God saved us, and when we understand His sacrifice we care for others

IX) We do not take His grace and salvation lightly

As cleansed sinners, our lives reveal that we understand what it cost Him to save us

This provokes us to care about others, and especially not to stumble them

Gal 5:13 For, brethren, you have been called to liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

X) If we are to imitate God, and walk in love, our lives must be lives of willing sacrifice

This demonstrates that we truly are Christians

Ro 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God --this is your spiritual act of worship.

XI) V3-7 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among

If Christ's love is our model, then we will not use the World's model of love

The World's kind of love very often is sexual in expression

XII) We are not to succumb to this kind of sin because we now belong to a holy community

I) We have been bought at a price, so we glorify God with our body and

spirit (1 Co 6:20)

1 Pe 1:15-16 as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

II) V3-4 Paul refers to various sins, **all of which** reveal a lack of sacrificial love for others

Fornication: All sexual sin, stimulated by lustful passion

Uncleanness: Immoral thought, passion, fantasies (often stimulated by pornography)

Covetousness: Sexual parasites, greedy for sexual gratification

Filthiness: General obscenity, any talk that is degrading, sexually inappropriate speech

Foolish talking: Gutter mouths, empty headed speech

Coarse jesting: Turning someone's words into trash, suggestive speech. Often, this is a display of an immoral wit; talk-show host humor

III) V3 Let it not even be named among you as is fitting for saints

These sins have no place in the body, and we are not to be known for this kind of sin

Ro 6:13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your **members** as instruments of righteousness to God.

1 Th 4:3-8 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles **who do not know God**; that no one should take advantage of and **defraud his brother** in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore, he who rejects this does not reject man, **but God**, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

IV) V5 This you know that no fornicator unclean person, nor covetous man who is an idolater

This does not seem fair! Christian standards are unbelievable and rigid

V) Many say: Sex is natural and should be enjoyed as much as is possible
This is something the early church dealt with

1 Co 6:13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body

VI) V6 Let **no one deceive** you with empty words for because of these things the wrath of God

Do not let them deceive, or ensnare you with words that are vain and devoid of truth

VII) SADLY: There will always be friends arguing that sin is not really that bad
They do this because they misunderstand or reject the actual definition of grace

Ro 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

I) Someone said to me: My friends say that blasphemy of the Spirit is the unpardonable sin

They use this to continue living with their boyfriends: Is this true

Mk 3:28-29 Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation" –

II) Someone who continues in sexual sin is revealing that they are not saved
1 Jn 3:9-10 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

III) When someone continues in sin with no grief it often reveals they aren't saved

The one who continues practicing sin doesn't understand God's grace

1 Co 6:9-10 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

IV) Your spiritual advisor is not necessarily the Pastor or even your Parent
Your spiritual advisor often is the podcast influencer or your best friend

V) Be careful who you allow to influence your life

Ps 1:1-2 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the

ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

VI) You can become so compromised that you are vulnerable to its draw

You can end up like Lot, Abraham's nephew

2 Pe 2:7-8 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) --

VII) V7 Therefore do not be partakers (partners) with them

Do not fellowship with those who speak and live this way

1 Co 15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

VIII) Finally, as many have discovered: Sexual sin is bondage

Jn 8:34-36 Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Whoever commits sin is the servant of sin; and the servant abides not in the house forever: but the Son abides forever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.

I) Like any other sin, Jesus can set you free from it

Admit it: Lu 5:8 Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord

Confess it: 1 Jn 1:9

Repent: Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent.

Seek God for power:

The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak, so we need His Spiritual power

II) Seek fellowship and accountability

Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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