



## Unbounded: Paul's Faith from Prison | Ephesians 5:1-20

Lee Stahl

### Unbounded: Walk like the man you are called to be!

**BIG Picture Principle:** Your true identity is revealed when you *walk* in Christ's love, light, and wisdom!

#### Imitation – Walk in *Love*

Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children,<sup>2</sup> and *walk* in love, as Christ also loved us and gave Himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.<sup>3</sup> But sexual immorality and any impurity or greed should not even be heard of among you, as is proper for saints.<sup>4</sup> Obscene and foolish talking or crude joking are not suitable, but rather giving thanks.<sup>5</sup> For know and recognize this: Every sexually immoral or impure or greedy person, who is an idolater, does **not** have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty arguments, for God's wrath is coming on the disobedient because of these things.

- You imitate what you \_\_\_\_\_ – v. 1; **Exodus 23:24; Deuteronomy 18:9; 1 Kings 14:24; 2 Kings 17:15; Ezekiel 23:48; 1 Corinthians 4:16, 11:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9; Hebrews 13:7; 3 John 1:11.**
- You imitate Christ by *walking* in agape/self-sacrificing love – v. 2; **John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13; 1 Peter 4:8.**
- You imitate the world by *walking* in \_\_\_\_\_ – vv. 3-4; **Romans 6-7; Colossians 2: 20-23.**
- You imitate \_\_\_\_\_ when you \_\_\_\_\_ sin – vv. 5-6; **Romans 8; 2 Peter 3:17**

#### Illumination – Walk in the **Light**

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, do not become their partners. <sup>8</sup> For you were once **DARKNESS**, but now you are **light** in the Lord. *Walk* as children of **light**— <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the **light** consists of all goodness, righteousness, and truth— <sup>10</sup> testing what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Don't participate in the fruitless works of **DARKNESS**, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what is done by them in secret. <sup>13</sup> Everything exposed by the **light** is made visible, <sup>14</sup> for what makes everything visible is **light**. Therefore it is said: Get up, sleeper, and rise up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

- Illumination begins with the right \_\_\_\_\_, *then* the right \_\_\_\_\_ – v. 7; **1 Corinthians 15: 3-8; Ephesians 2:8-10.**
- Illumination has a starting point, a \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ for the journey – vv. 8-10; **Acts 16:31; Romans 11:29; 1 Corinthians 1:26; Ephesians 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:11; 2 Timothy 1:9; Hebrews 3:1.**
- Illumination takes \_\_\_\_\_ – v. 11; **James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-8; 2 Peter 1:3-9.**
- Illumination is not meant to be hoarded but shared – vv. 12-14; **Romans 10:9-15; Ephesians 4:11-16.**

## UNBOUNDED: Walk like the man you are called to be!

### Sanctification – Walk in **Wisdom**

<sup>15</sup> Pay careful attention, then, to how you *walk*—not as unwise people but as **wise** — <sup>16</sup> making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. <sup>18</sup> And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit: <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music with your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- A sanctified life is a life lived in wisdom – vv. **15-16**; see also the books of James and Proverbs.
- A sanctified individual knows the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ – v. **17**; **Proverbs 3:5-6; Micah 6:8; Luke 9:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, 5:12-22; Hebrews 10:36, 13:20-21; 1 Peter 2:15-17 and 2 Corinthians 5:7.**
- A sanctified life is a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ life – v. **18**; **Luke 1:67; Acts 2:4, 4:8, 31, 9:17; 13:9, 52; Colossians 1:9; 1 Peter 1:13-16.**
- A sanctified individual is easy to \_\_\_\_\_ – vv. **19-20; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18.**

### Table Talk

- In what ways do you sacrifice for those you love? Is Christ or self the source of that sacrificial love?
- In what areas of your life are you most tempted toward idolatry?
- Why is it important that sin is made visible?
- Notice that Paul says, "Pay careful attention, then, to how you *walk*." We all take care over the things which seems to us to matter – our job, education, home and family, hobbies, appearance... So as Christians we must be watchful over our Christian life. How can we take care of our Christian life?
- What is Paul saying to you in his drunkenness illustration? Could anyone accuse you of being "under the influence" of the Holy Spirit?
- What makes gratitude to God so powerful?

### NOTES