

Walk in Love

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Epistle of Ephesians / Ephesians 5:1–6

Opening Thoughts

Can a person be a Christian and still sin long-term in grievous ways?

I. Imitate God (5:1)

What does it mean to be an imitator of God? How is this possible?

The Greek word *mimētēs* is where we get our English word “mimic”; someone who copies specific characteristics of another person.

What attribute in particular are we to imitate?

The term “walk” is usually used as a metaphor for daily practice, a repetitive life behavior.

II. The Example (5:2)

What does it look like to live a life full of love?

“...just as Christ also loved you.”

How did Christ love us?

Love is not just giving. Love is the giving of self.

Have a life defined by giving ourselves fully to Christ and to one another.

III. Avoid Evil (5:3-4)

A. Immorality

The Greek word *porneia* is translated into English “immorality” and refers to all kinds of sexual conduct.

B. Impurity

The Greek word for “impurity” is *akatharsia* and is even broader than “immorality.” It refers to anything that is unclean.

C. Greed

D. Filthiness

E. Silly Talk

Mōrologia is made up of two Greek words: *moros* from which comes “moron” meaning to be dull or stupid, and *legos* meaning to speak.

F. Coarse Jesting

Instead of filth, let our words be full of thanksgiving.

Do you remember the 3-fold test of our words given in [Ephesians 4:29](#)?

1. Do our words build up the person?
2. Are our words being said at the appropriate time?
3. Do our words give grace to the hearer?

IV. The Reason for Change (5:5)

Everyone who does these things **“has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”**

Paul says when we practice these things that we are **idolaters**.

V. Don’t Be Deceived (5:6)

There is no inheritance of God’s kingdom, but there is the wrath of God falling on us deservedly for doing these things.

How does this passage from Paul's Epistle to the Galatians enhance your understanding of [Ephesians 5:1–14](#)?

What are the implications of this for lukewarm Christians who are not willing to fully submit to the Lordship of Christ? Are they truly Christians?

Application: Do you reflect the character of Christ? As you reflect on 5:1–14, what commands do you see that you are not obeying? What listed sins are you carelessly committing?

Application: Write a prayer to God summarizing your own personal application of this passage to your life (that is, how you'd like to be a "doer" of this truth):