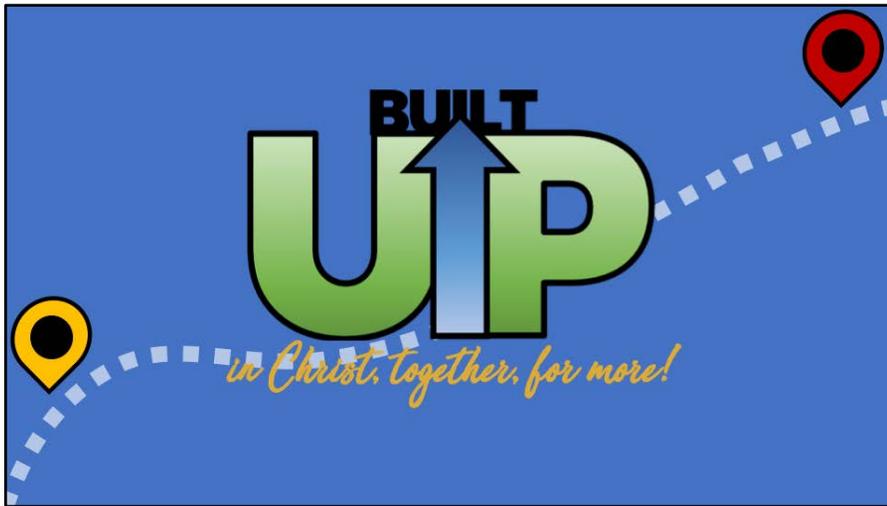


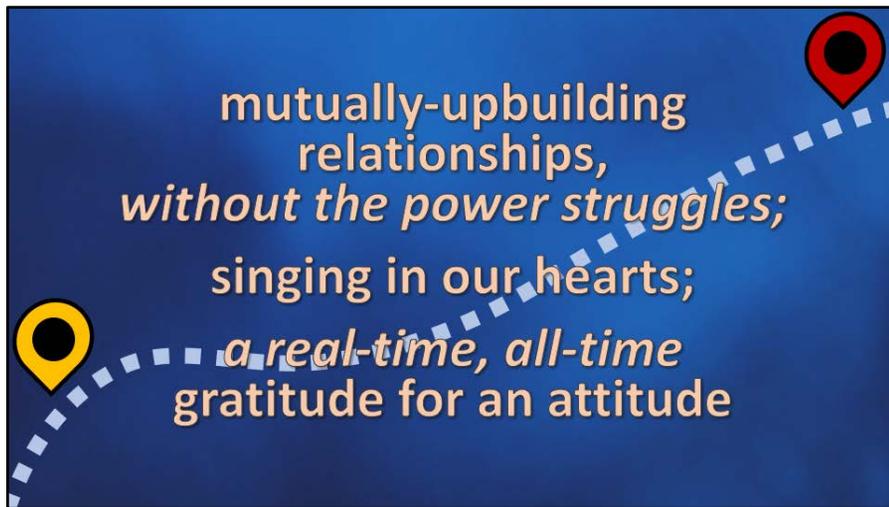
(Theme Slide)



2

Being Built[^]UP in Christ, together, for more . . . is about a journey that starts where we are at and takes us closer to where God wants us to be.

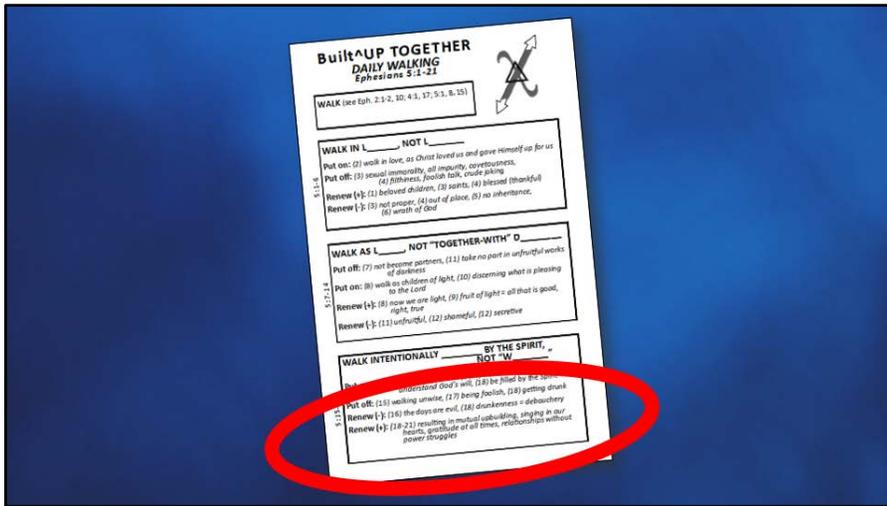
TR: Would you be interested if I could give you a map to take you to a place where you could enjoy . . .



3

READ SLIDE

TR: This is not Pollyanna thinking, but rather the destination that God wants us to reach. It is captured . . .



4

at the bottom of our sermon notes page.

TR: But getting there is not easily done. It will take a supernatural work of God.



From the movie Against All Odds: Israel Survives

In preparing for our trip to Israel in January, Kathy and I watched a recommended movie.

It told of what happened in 1973 when a band of soldiers found themselves in a mine field. They couldn't go back. The only hope was to use their field knives and dig out each mine, even though there were probably a 100,000 of them.

One of the men later said they prayed and a fierce wind came up, blinding them in the dust. They knew they couldn't move, so they just were still and endured.

TR: When they opened their eyes, it certainly appeared that God had graciously performed a miracle.



During the Yom Kippur War in 1973

In this re-creation for the movie, we see an aerial shot, with the small band of soldiers walking through the minefield with ease . . . because all the mines had been uncovered by the wind.

TR: Today, we are asking the Spirit of God to blow away our confusion and help us know how to walk, where to step, in order to reach our goal of mutually upbuilding relationships, having hearts light enough to spontaneously sing, always overwhelmed with gratitude, even for everything God allows.

Ephesians 2:1-2

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

ESV

7

We want to know how to WALK . . . not like we used to walk.

-- READ SLIDE

TR: We want to walk differently . . .

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God prepared beforehand, **that we should walk in them.**

ESV

8

READ SLIDE

TR: It makes sense to us to . . .

Ephesians 4:1

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,
urge you to walk in a manner worthy of
the calling to which you have been
called,

ESV

9

READ SLIDE (beginning with “walk in a manner . . .”)

TR: This walking worthy means that we will . . .

Ephesians 4:17

Now this I say and testify in the Lord,
that you must **no longer walk as the
Gentiles do**, in the futility of their
minds.

ESV

10

READ SLIDE (beginning with “no longer walk . . .”)

TR: Today, as we seek the path through the minefield, we read in Ephesians 5 . . .



11

. . . that we are to . . . READ SLIDE

TR: From the God-breathed Scriptures today, we need to learn . . .



12

. . . from God, through Paul, what the mines are AND how we can avoid them in our daily walks.

TR: To do that, I want use to take out our “field knives” . . . the tool we learned last week back in Ephesians 4:20-24

Ephesians 4:20-21

But that is not the way **you learned Christ!**— ²¹assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,

ESV

13

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 22

Ephesians 4:22-24

to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,²³ and **to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,**²⁴ and **to put on** the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

ESV

14

READ SLIDE

**TR: When we trusted Christ, we did this, we LEARNED CHRIST.
Now we must do it daily.**



to put off your
old self, which
belongs to your
former manner
of life and is
corrupt through
deceitful desires,

15

We must . . . READ SLIDE

TR: And we must . . .



16

READ SLIDE

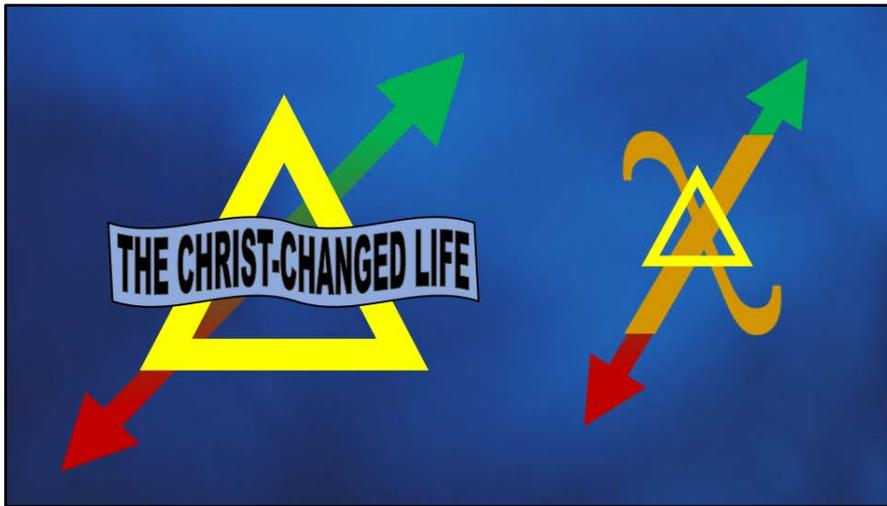
TR: And we must . . .



17

READ SLIDE

TR: These three components are critical to walking in a manner worthy . . . to NOT walking like an unbeliever. These are part of what I called . . .



18

**. . . the Christ-changed life.
-- REVIEW SLIDE**

TR: If we are to make it to our destination of walking with God and enjoying better relationships and deep-seated joy and gratitude, we must . . .

WALK IN LOVE,

WALK AS LIGHT,

**WALK INTENTIONALLY
FILLED BY THE SPIRIT,**



19

READ SLIDE

TR: Let's read the first 6 verses together of Ephesians 5

Ephesians 5:1-2 *page 1081 in handout Bibles*

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

ESV

20

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 3

Ephesians 5:3-4

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

ESV

21

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 5

Ephesians 5:5-6

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

ESV

22

READ SLIDE

TR: What is the landmine that we must avoid, that destroys our relationships and even our souls?



23

It is the landmine of lust.

-- Lust, sensual attraction, can feel a lot like love. It is a great imitator of intimacy, fitting right in with the daily soil we walk on

...

-- ...until it blows our legs out from underneath us.

TR: Let's use our tool of the Christ-changed life to look at the text a bit closer.

PUT ON



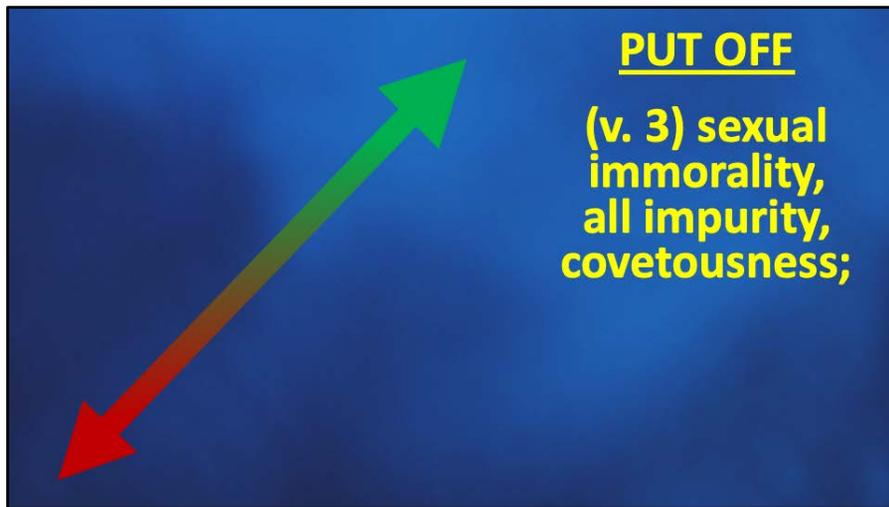
(v. 2) walk in love
as Christ loved us
and gave himself
up for us

24

What are we to PUT ON? . . . READ SLIDE

- Love is not, at its core, sexual. It is sacrificial.
- Love is defined by the way Christ loved us and specifically how He gave Himself up for us.
- We often think we love someone because we “feel that we need them.” “That we would die without them.”
- But true love says that we would happily die FOR them. And that we would sacrifice to meet THEIR needs.

TR: What are we to PUT OFF? What is the landmine we must avoid?

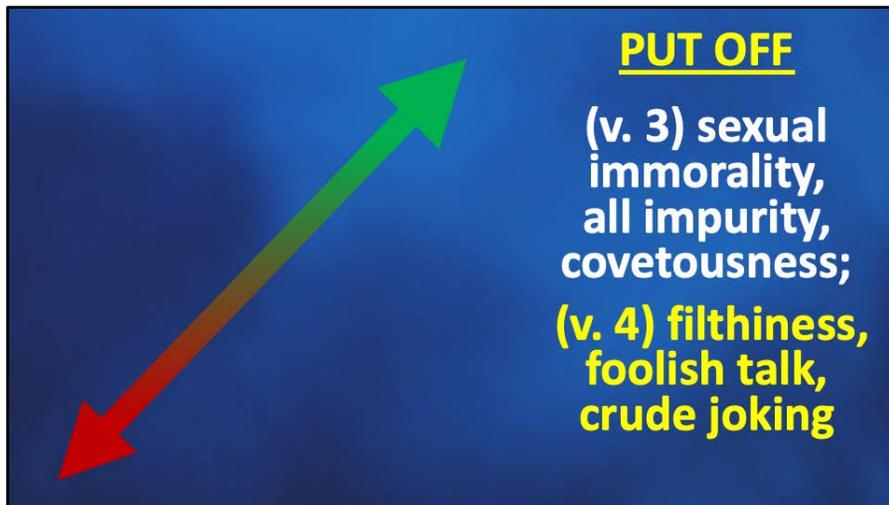


25

READ SLIDE

- I believe all three of these words are focused on sexual and sensual sins, of any kind.
- Even the “covetousness” is about our desire for more in the worst sense of the words.
- In 4:19 it said that the Gentiles *“have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.”*
- This is the context then for both the term [impurity] and the idea of greediness.

TR: As blood-bought Christ-followers, we are to put off any kind of sexual immorality . . . including just talking about such things.



PUT OFF
(v. 3) sexual
immorality,
all impurity,
covetousness;
(v. 4) filthiness,
foolish talk,
crude joking

26

Verse 4 tells us to put off . . . READ SLIDE

-- It is amazing how much of our culture's humor is sexual in nature.

-- The F-bomb seems to blow up everywhere.

-- Talking this way opens us up to thinking this way, which opens us up to living, or walking, this way.

TR: To truly LEARN CHRIST also means that we need to be renewed in the spirit of our minds



BE RENEWED
(v. 1) beloved children
(v. 3) saints

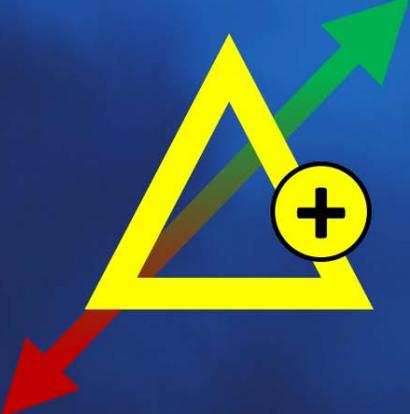
27

Let's separate out the **POSITIVE** and **NEGATIVE** mind renew-ers . .

·
-- like "what so good that we should do this" AND "what's so bad if we step on the mine?"

-- Sexual immorality, even joking about it, is beneath us because we are . . . **READ SLIDE**

TR: Verse 4 adds . . .



BE RENEWED
(v. 1) beloved children
(v. 3) saints
(v. 4) **blessed**
(thankful)

28

... the implication that we are blessed.
-- We are told to be thankful instead of lustful in action and words ... suggesting that God has blessed us with things that should be the focus of our conversations.

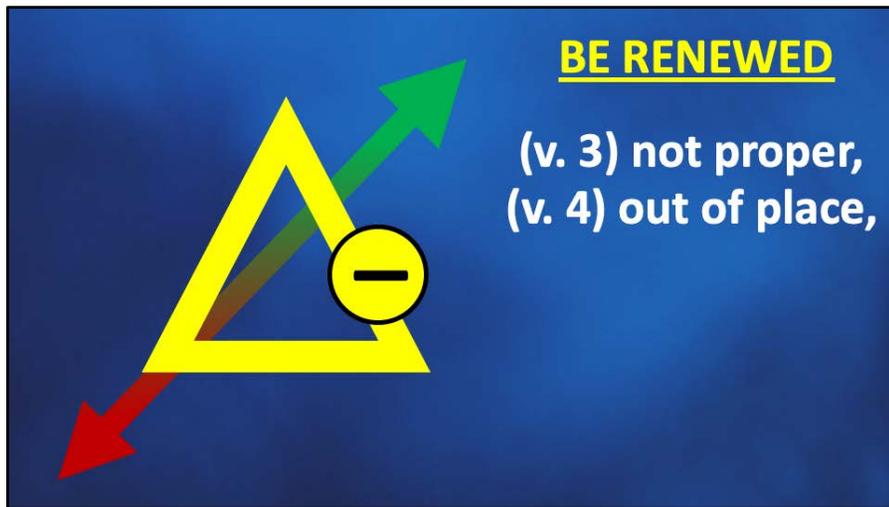
TR: If you have trusted Christ, you are blessed.



Remember again that all believers have a chest-full of ribbons . . . all won for us through the work of Jesus Christ in His life, death, and resurrection.

**-- To be crude in our words and then in our actions is beneath us.
-- Remember, "Who you are . . . BE!"**

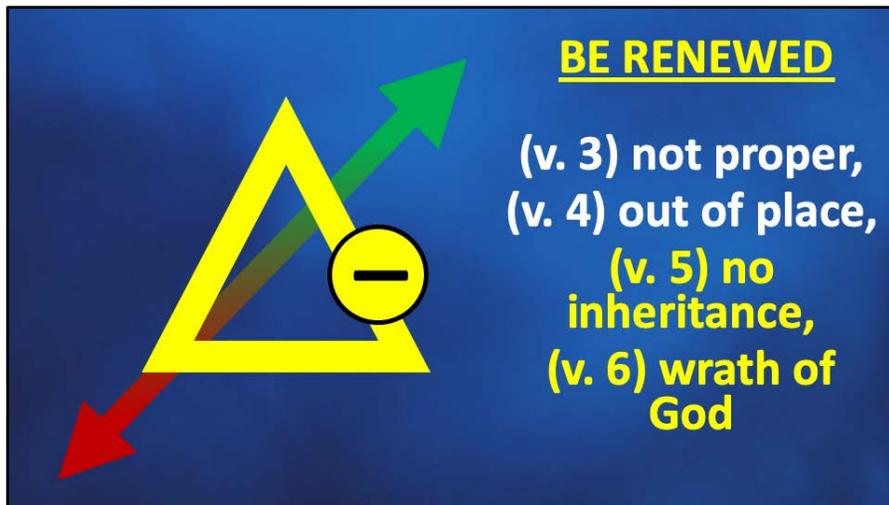
TR: The Apostle also helps us be transformed by the renewing of our minds, telling us . . .



30

. . . that the relationship landmine of lust is . . . READ SLIDE

TR: He also points us to the ultimate outcome of such depraved talk and walk.



BE RENEWED
(v. 3) not proper,
(v. 4) out of place,
(v. 5) no inheritance,
(v. 6) wrath of God

31

We read . . . READ SLIDE

**-- Chapters 1-3 emphasized that we are heirs, even as Gentiles.
-- Chapter 2 reminded us that before we trusted Jesus we were dead, dead, dead . . . and under wrath.**

-- Our changed lives do not save us. But if our lives are not changed, it is evidence that we have not been saved.

TR: God's Spirit blows the dirt and dust away and we see the landmine for what it is . . .



32

The landmine of lust.

-- We are called to walk in love, not in lust.

-- EX: Father helping his daughter be secure in his love so that she doesn't have to "go looking for it." We are beloved children. We don't have to go "looking for it."

-- Key Question: What is our real desire for relationships? Are we givers or takers?

TR: If we are to make it to our destination of walking with God and enjoying better relationships and deep-seated joy and gratitude, we must . . .



33

... READ SLIDE

TR: The text doesn't say "walk in the light" though that is the thought in other passages in the Bible. Here it says ...

Ephesians 5:7-10

Therefore **do not become partners** with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light** ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

ESV

34

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 11

Ephesians 5:11-12

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.
¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.

ESV

35

READ SLIDE

-- Reason I put verse 7 in this section is the connection with partner and taking part (or participating)

TR: Verse 13 then takes us to the semi-quote, seemingly a collection of ideas from Isaiah . . .

Ephesians 5:13-14

But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

ESV

36

READ SLIDE

TR: So we are told to wake up and let Christ shine on us. We are told to . . .



WALK IN LOVE,
NOT LUST

WALK AS LIGHT,
NOT "TOGETHER-WITH" DARKNESS

WALK INTENTIONALLY
FILLED BY THE SPIRIT,

37

READ SLIDE

TR: If you've been with us, you recognize the idea of "together-with" . . . with Christ and with our fellow believers. The PUT OFF components clarify this for us.

PUT OFF

(v. 7) not become partners

(v. 11) take no part in unfruitful works of darkness

38

We are to . . . READ SLIDE

- these are words that have a prefix of “WITH” . . . like the other “WITH” words in the earlier chapters.
- 5:7 – cf. 3:6 “fellow partakers of the promise” – we are not “fellow partakers” of darkness.
- 5:11 – have fellowship with = koinonia . . .
- we are not to be together-with these unbelievers, and perhaps professing believers who are living like they are unbelievers . . .
- . . . because unbelievers are “darkened in their understanding” (4:18)
- We must not be “UNEQUALLY YOKED” in marriage, business partnerships,
- These relationships tend to be filled with “UNFRUITFUL WORKS” because they are filled with “rotten apple words” (unwholesome talk – 4:29)

TR: To not only avoid the mine, but to make progress toward the desired destination (we are headed somewhere, not just dancing around the mines) we must . . .

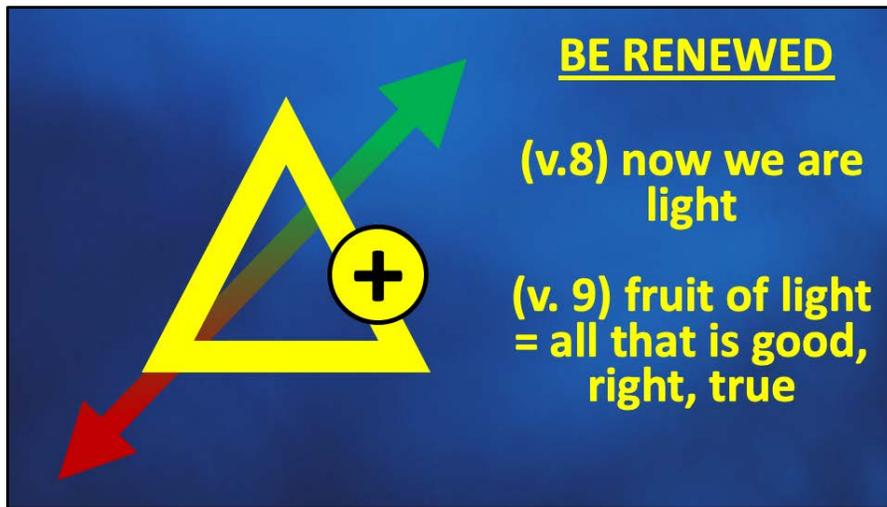
PUT ON
(v. 8) walk as children of light,
(v. 10) discerning what is pleasing to the Lord

39

READ SLIDE

- Cf. 4:17 “no longer walk as the Gentiles do, darkened in their understanding.
- ”EX: We’ve changed teams, we are “together-with” Christ and the Church family

TR: We are transformed by the renewing of our minds by remembering that . . .



BE RENEWED

(v.8) now we are light

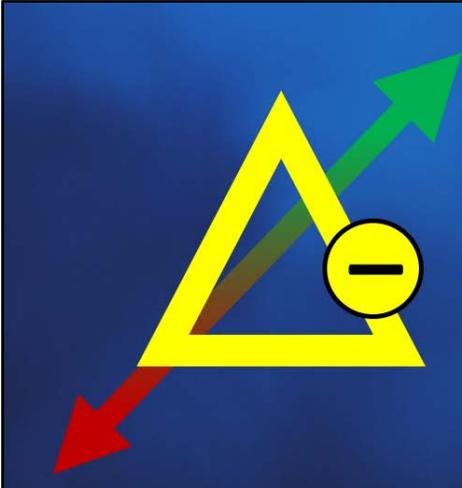
**(v. 9) fruit of light
= all that is good,
right, true**

40

READ SLIDE

- We walk as children of light **BECAUSE** we **NOW** are light
- What is pleasing to God is all that is good, right, and true.

TR: In contrast to this, we are told to think correctly about what we are to put off . . . these works of darkness are . . .



BE RENEWED

**(v. 11) unfruitful
(v. 12) shameful
(v. 12) secretive**

41

READ SLIDE

-- EX: The power of secrets – secrets allow the evil one to blackmail us.

-- The world loves the darkness because they think it hides their shame-filled face in the shadows of a hoodie.

-- Cf. “Would you do this if your mother was right here?”
“Knowing Jesus is with you?”

TR: God’s Spirit again blows the dirt and dust away and we see the landmine for what it is . . .

WALK IN LOVE,
NOT LUST

WALK AS LIGHT,
NOT "TOGETHER-WITH" DARKNESS

WALK INTENTIONALLY
FILLED BY THE SPIRIT,

42

READ SLIDE

The Key Questions for us:

-- Who are our real "together-with" folks? How do we seek a sense of belonging?

-- cf. traveling internationally and finding fellowship with other believers in all sorts of places

-- cf. truly honest with one another . . . even exposing the darkness in other believers so that they can be spared / redeemed.

-- cf. even if in small groups, do we only share about others but never about how we are processing things?

TR: If we are to make it to our destination of walking with God and enjoying better relationships and deep-seated joy and gratitude, we must . . .

WALK IN LOVE,

WALK AS LIGHT,

**WALK INTENTIONALLY
FILLED BY THE SPIRIT,**

43

READ SLIDE

TR: Look at verses 15-21

Ephesians 5:15-17

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

ESV

44

READ SLIDE

-- Note again the repetition of knowing the will of the Lord, like back in verse 10.

TR: Verse 18 then gives a specific to the careful walking . . .

Ephesians 5:18

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but **be filled** with the Spirit,

ESV

45

READ SLIDE

TR: And then verses 19-21 give us 5 participles, 5 ING-words, that I believe capture the results of being filled with (or by) the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18-21

. . . **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.

ESV

46

READ SLIDE

TR: I label the landmine avoided in these verses as . . .

WALK IN LOVE,
NOT LUST

WALK AS LIGHT,
NOT "TOGETHER-WITH" DARKNESS

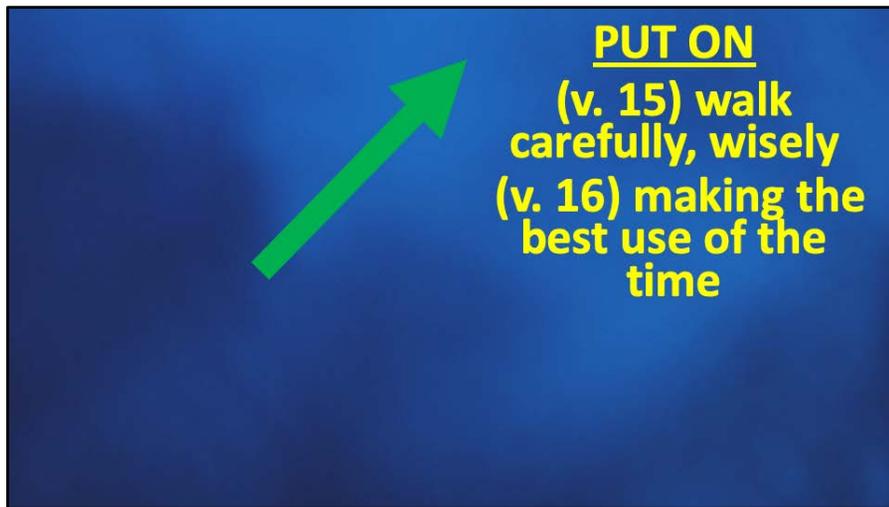
WALK INTENTIONALLY
FILLED BY THE SPIRIT,
NOT "WASTED"

47

“wasted.”

-- Wasted time and wasted because of drunkenness, inebriated by controlling substances.

TR: Let's look at the Christ-changed Life components again:

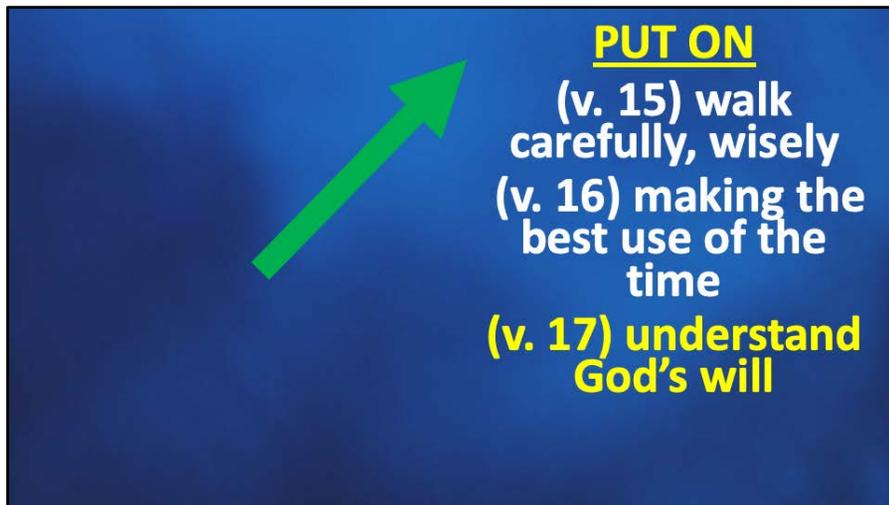


48

READ SLIDE

- There is an intentionality to our daily walk.**
- Stumbling through the minefield means that we won't make it to our destination.**
- Many individuals, couples, workplaces, and ministries are not intentional enough.**
- Cf. Gain and Sustain Focus System . . . because want to hear "Well done," and not, "What were you doing?"**

TR: We also are to put on . . .



PUT ON
(v. 15) walk
carefully, wisely
(v. 16) making the
best use of the
time
(v. 17) understand
God's will

49

READ SLIDE

-- remember back in 1:19 that the will of the Lord was to bring all things to unity in Christ Jesus.

-- and in 5:10, we were to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

-- This includes being in the Word and under the Word . . . this is the primary way how God has chosen to reveal His will to us.

-- He does lead us by His Spirit, but if we are not under the Word, we will not be able to weigh these leadings to make sure they are truly of God.

-- The evil one likes to cover the mines so well that we strut forward thinking we are standing on solid ground.

TR: And then we are told to . . .

PUT ON

(v. 15) walk
carefully, wisely

(v. 16) making the
best use of the
time

(v. 17) understand
God's will

**(v. 18) be filled by
the Spirit**

50

READ SLIDE

-- Imperative, Plural, Passive, Present

-- [filled] – cf. 1:3, 3:19, 4:10

1:22-23 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

3:19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

4:10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.

-- Question of whether we are filled WITH the Spirit or BY the Spirit with all the fullness of Jesus / God.

TR: When we went through the booklet, Live as a Christian, learning the AEIOU daily steps, I encouraged you to pray daily along these lines . . .

Lord, having confessed all the sins
that You have revealed to me,
and believing in Your promises,

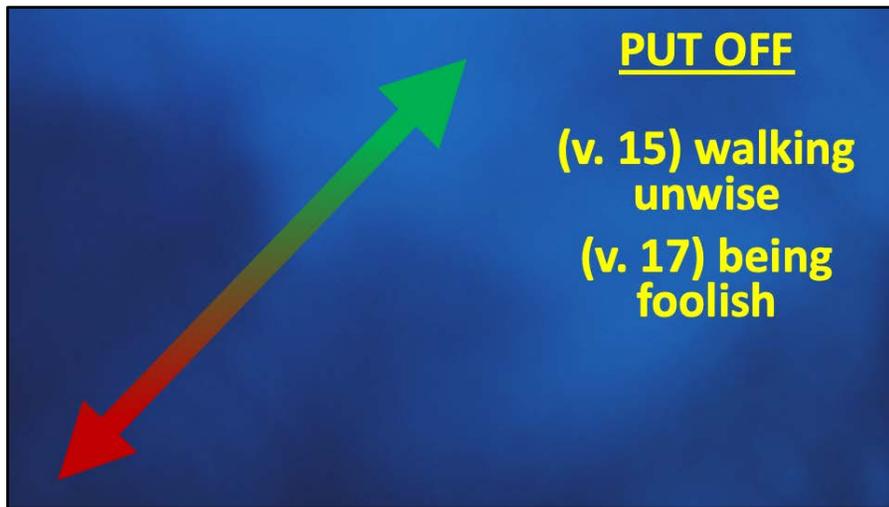
I ask You to fill me with your Holy Spirit.

Direct my mind and heart today and
give me a confident sense of
Your abiding presence with me.
Amen.

51

READ SLIDE

TR: That's what we are to PUT ON, but we are also to PUT OFF . . .

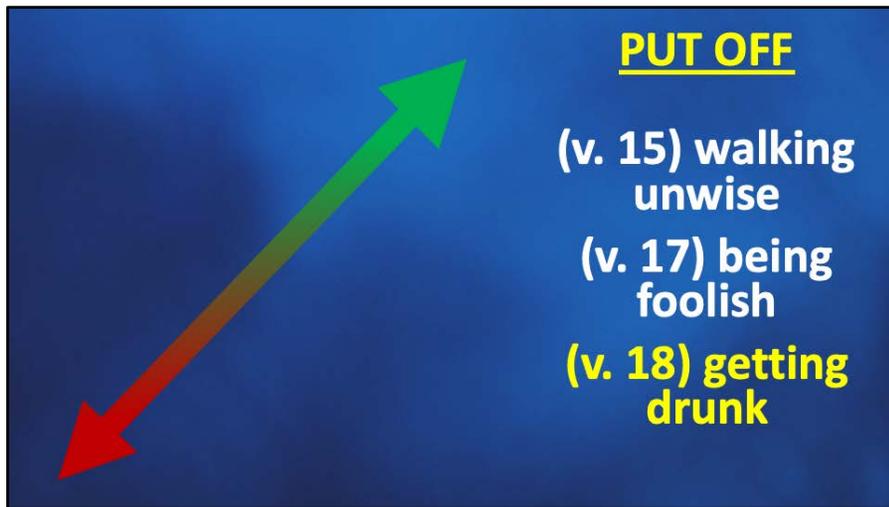


52

READ SLIDE

TR: and in contrast to being filled by the Spirit, we must put off . .

•



PUT OFF
(v. 15) walking unwise
(v. 17) being foolish
(v. 18) getting drunk

53

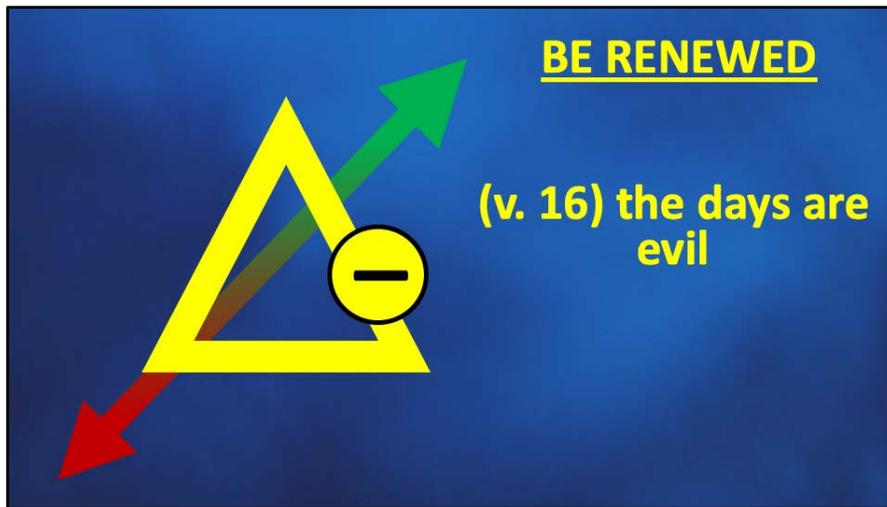
READ SLIDE

-- EX: alcohol controls you

-- Seems to have been an issue in the church in western Turkey (Asia Minor)

-- Like our world, sex and drinking are real issues. Just ask anyone on a college campus.

TR: These commands to put off and put on are underlined and solidified by the BE RENEWED components. If we don't renew our minds with these truths, we will easily be tossed about by the world's way of thinking . . .



54

We must walk intentionally filled by the Spirit, not “wasted” because . . . READ SLIDE

-- When we forget that every moment and every inch is a battle ground, and that the evil one is seeking to devour . . . we decide the way to deal with the stresses of life is sex and drink.

TR: We put off drunkenness and put on being filled by the Spirit because . . .

BE RENEWED

(v. 16) the days are
evil

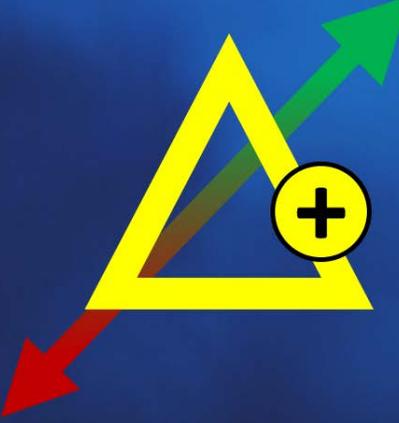
(v. 18) drunkenness
is debauchery

55

READ SLIDE

- It is a wastefulness, that's what debauchery means.
- It is a word I dislike since it is so close to "deBock" in sound.

TR: While these negative mind renew-ers are important, it is the positive that really motivate me.



BE RENEWED
(v. 18-21) results in
mutual upbuilding
singing in our
hearts
gratitude at all
times
relationships
without power
struggles

56

These are captured in the 5 results that describe us and our relationships when we walk in love, as light, intentionally filled by the Spirit.

-- We are going to see the . . . READ SLIDE

TR: For a third time God's Spirit again blows the dirt and dust away and we see the landmine for what it is . . .

WALK IN LOVE,
NOT LUST

WALK AS LIGHT,
NOT "TOGETHER-WITH" DARKNESS

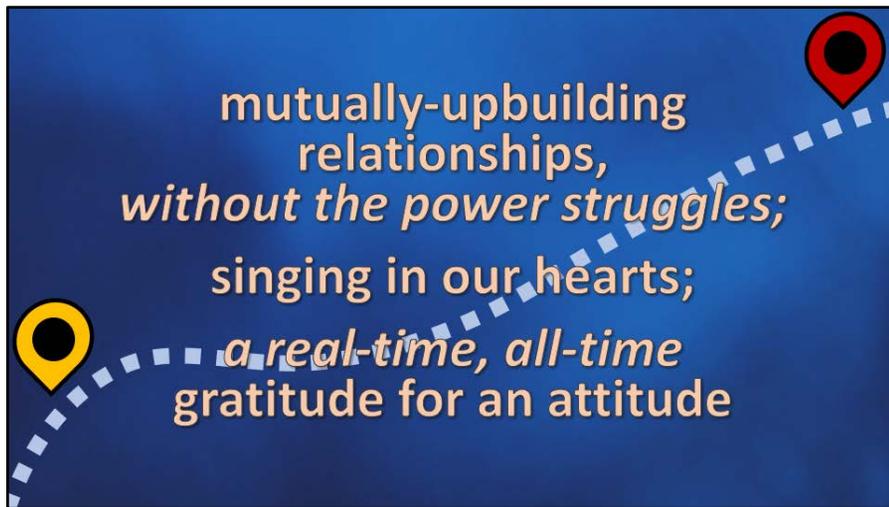
WALK INTENTIONALLY
FILLED BY THE SPIRIT,
NOT "WASTED"

57

Our relationships will never be mutually upbuilding, without power struggles, leaving us singing in our hearts and being filled with a real-time, all-time sense of gratitude . . . if we allow ourselves to be "wasted" by controlling substances and passions.

The question for us is: What really fills us with contentment?
How do we seek for a sense of peace?

TR: I hope you too yearn to make it to the destination of God's blessing where . . .



58

READ SLIDE

TR: But to get there we will have to avoid the mine of . . .



59

lust . . . and instead walk in Christ-like love, giving of ourselves to others.

TR: We will have to avoid the mine of . . .



60

. . . partnering, being “together-with” people who we are no longer “together-with”

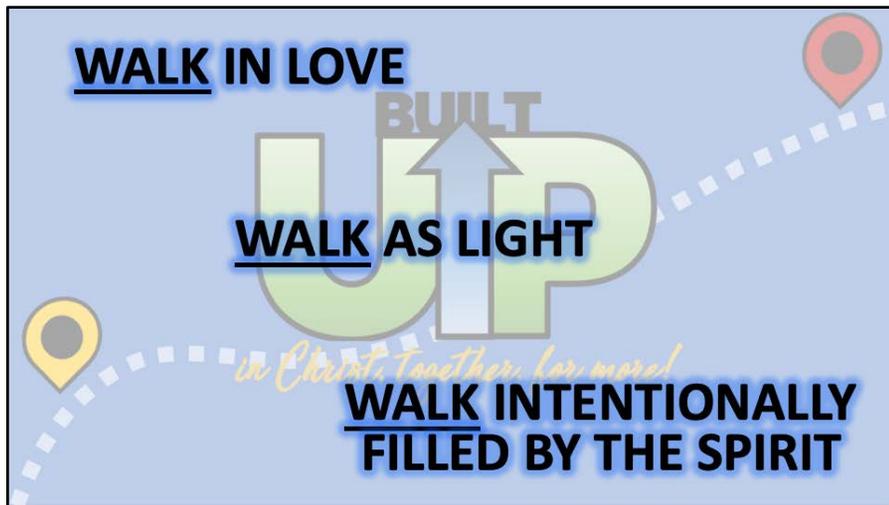
TR: We will have to avoid the mine of . . .



61

... a "wasted life" - not redeeming the opportunities, living foolishly, living for the next "high."

TR: But please remember, just trying to avoid the mines doesn't mean that we'll get to the desired destination . . .



62

we must be transformed by the renewing of our minds, making the choices of putting off and putting on . . .
-- . . . walking in a manner worthy of our calling by choosing with the Spirit's help to . . . READ SLIDE