

Imitators of God

Ephesians 5:1-21

***Walking with God means following God**

=>Paul is helping believers to understand what it means to be in Christ (each chapter teaches about walking with God and builds upon our salvation). **SAVED**

We see the word “therefore” four times in this passage. What do we see as the focus of walking with God?

I. Therefore... Walk as Children

- A. Be imitators
 - 1. “Mimos” = mimic
 - 2. Pretend to be who you want to be
- B. In love
 - 1. Love for others (us)
 - 2. Love for God
 - 3. “Agape”
- C. As godly children
 - 1. Not immorally or impure
 - 2. No inheritance = no relationship
- D. NOT in disobedience
 - 1. Deceived = Genesis 3
 - 2. Wrath of disobedience (sons vs children of God)

II. Therefore... Walk as Light (Truth)

- A. Partners
 - 1. Help, ally, fight, at someone’s side
 - 2. No longer in darkness (former life)
- B. Light in the Lord
- C. Fruit is found
 - 1. Results come from it
 - 2. Good, right, true are the descriptions given

III. Therefore... Walk as Wise

- A. Rise from the dead

1. Possibly part of the hymn or song from that time (?)
 2. Literally translates "Rise from the dead ones..."
- B. Walk as wise
1. Look carefully = pay attention
 2. Use of time
 3. Aware of evil (not as fear but aware)

IV. Therefore... Walk as Filled with the Spirit (Worship)

- A. Understand the will of the Lord
1. Foolish is the opposite
 2. Romans 12:2
 3. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- B. Filled with the Spirit
1. Not wine (debauchery)
 - Behavior considered excessively decadent, indulgent, and depraved.
 - Excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures; intemperance
 - Using anything for your own self-glory regardless of how God feels about it.
 2. Addressing in worship
 3. Giving thanks always (in everything)
 4. Submitting to one another (allowing others to strengthen and sharpen you)

V. Walking with God means following God.

- A. God gives us life to bring us closer to Him.
- B. We use tools too much and they become detrimental to our lives
- C. Tools: hammer, (old) telephone, cell phone

=> hammer, telephone, cell phone; tools but cell becomes too much of a distraction and not just a tool. How can we apply Ephesians 5 to using a cell?

VI. Live It Out

- A. Are you a child of God?
- B. Do you live by truth in the light? Do you do things in secret and darkness hoping no one will know (God knows all)
- C. Are your decisions wise or foolish based on God's Judgment (no man's)? Do you do things based on God's values or your own?
- D. What is your attitude toward the church? Come because you're supposed to or realize you are part of Christ's Body?

