

## Ways and Means Ephesians 5:1-14

INTRO: Over and over in book the book of Ephesians we are reminded of the way we are to live, of the path we are to take. The word “walk” is used to describe the life of the believer. The child of God is to :

1. Walk worthy of his call of salvation-Eph. 4:1
2. Walk not as other Gentiles-he is to walk in purity- Eph. 4:17
3. Walk in love- Eph. 5:2
4. Walk as a child of light-Eph. 5:8
5. Walk circumspectly or carefully- Eph. 5:15 etc.

We are reminded of the way we are to walk and we are given the means to do it. We have:

1. The riches of God’s grace- Eph. 1:7;2:7
2. The riches of his glory- Eph. 1:18,3:16
3. The riches of God’s mercy-Eph. 1:4
4. The unreachable riches of Christ-Eph. 3:8

With these things in mind we enter the wonderful fifth chapter of Ephesians.

### I. Vss. 1-2, LOVE FOR OTHERS

- A. Vs. 1, Christians are to be imitators of God. The word “follower” means to imitate.
1. The word used for “children” means begotten of God or born into the family of God.
  2. “Beloved Children” means believers in God’s love.
    - a. The child who is the object of love is eager to imitate the one who loves him.
    - b. Those who are “beloved of God” affectionately yearn to please Him.
  3. Saved folks are to act like God. They are to see life from God’s point of view and live it that way.
    - a. We are to copy God’s love and forgiveness- Eph. 4:32.
    - b. Each day of our Christian experience should draw us closer to what we should be for God. The Greek word used for “be” in Eph 4:32 means “keep on becoming.” “More than

yesterday, less than tomorrow.” Our love for God should be like that!

- B. Vs. 2, Believers are to walk in love.
  - 1. We are to follow Christ who loved us, we are to follow in his steps (1 Peter 2:21 -24; Col. 3:13).
  - 2. The supreme example of love is the love of Christ for His own- He loved us.
    - a. “Hath given Himself for us.”
      - 1.) He Sacrificed His life on behalf of those who would believe.
      - 2.) He willingly gave Himself up (John 10:11,15,17-18;Gal. 1;4).
    - b. In Gal. 2:20, Paul personalized the sacrifice of Christ.
  - 3. “An offering and a sacrifice to God...”
    - a. It was an offering for He willingly brought it (Isa. 53:10).
    - b. It was a sacrifice, entire surrender to God.
      - 1.) He, Christ, took our place and the weight of our sins and the wrath of God pressed out of Him the bloody sweat in the garden( 2Cor. 5:21). “For he [God] hath made him [Jesus] to be sin for us....”
      - 2.) The deepest anguish and the reproach of hell was laid upon Him, body and soul, on the cross when He cried. “My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me.”
  - 4. “For a sweet smelling savour.”
    - a. Just as the sacrifice of Christ was and is the sweet fragrance to God, our love for others is a sweet smelling savour to God.(2Cor. 2:15-16).
    - b. The greatest sacrifice of all is that self-sacrifice of Christ.

## II. Vss. 3-6, ABSTAIN FROM EVIL PRACTICES

- A. Vss. 3-4, Self-centered vices in conduct and speech are the opposite of the self-sacrificing love spoken of in Vss. 1-2.
  - 1. Vs.3, because these sins show selfishness and unconcern for others, believers should not have

even a hint of these sins in their lives. "All uncleanness," crime, immorality includes everything not clean.

- a. Fornication-Greek PORNEIA "illicit sexual intercourse in general ." (Mullins 115) Chastity is the one virtue that Christianity introduced to the world.
  - b. Covetousness- to take advantage of another, greed. In this case, the word is connected with sins of the flesh. We should not want another man's wife or husband, daughter, or grandchild.
2. Vs. 4, In proprieties in speech are not to be a part of a Christians life.
- a. Filthiness- obscenity
  - b. "Foolish talking"- fool talk, coarse language.
  - c. "Jesting"- dirty humor, dirty jokes and dirty stories.
  - d. The above type of speech are not suitable to the Christian. Humor itself is not a sin but dirty humor or humor used to destroy morals or people is wrong.
- B. Vss. 5-6, Immortality, impurity and gruel are the practices of the lost, those headed for hell and believers are to abstain from such ungodliness.
1. Vs. 5, Thou who practice these sins are lost and have no home in heaven.
  2. Vs. 6, Don't be misled by the moral pattern of those who live and teach contrary to the Christian faith. Their words are empty and they are objects of God's wrath (Col. 3:6).

### III. Vss. 7-10 DO NOT GET INVOLVED WITH EVIL DOERS

- A. Vs. 7, As the objects of God's love, Christians are not to get involved with those who are the objects of God's wrath.
  1. Christians are to be separate from the world.
  2. We are to live as children of the King.
- B. Vs. 8a, The reason for our separation from the world is given to here, we are changed persons.

1. Christians are no longer part of the darkness- we have been rescued out of darkness(Col. 1:13).
  2. Now, being “in the Lord” who is light, believers are to be lights.
- C. Vss. 8b-10, Here we have a command. This is not a suggestion, it is a command.
1. Vs 8b, As children of light , Christians are to live accordingly (Rom. 13: 12).
  2. Vs. 9 Here we have the fruit of the light reflecting God’s character in the believer’s life.
  3. Vs. 10, Children of the light are to discern and demonstrate what pleases the Lord (Cor. 5:9).
- IV. Vss. 11-13, EXPOSING THE WORKS OF DARKNESS
- A. Vs. 11, Christians are absolutely forbidden to be “sharers together” with the children of disobedience. Christians are to expose sin in the church (1Cor. 5:12-13).
  - B. Vs. 12, The sins of immorality are so shameful that we are not to explicitly describe them (Rom. 1:24). “What could not be done in righteousness sexually, was not to be spoken of.”
  - C. Vs. 13, When light exposes evil actions they become visible, manifest for what they really are. Seeing them as evil the believer stays away from them.
- V. Vs. 14, CHRIST THE ONE WHO ENLIGHTENS
- A. Those who profess Christ are “to stand up out of the dead ones .”
  - B. It is so tragic to see so many who profess Christ, living down with the world and it’s darkness.

CONCLUSION: Walk in the light!

Dr. Cecil A. Fayard, Jr.  
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