

Walk in Love

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

I. Intro

A. Last Week we had an overview of chapter 5, connecting truth to the rest of Ephesians, and especially chapter 4.

B. We begin to look at the specifics of this chapter today.

C. Throughout our study we will look at:

1. Challenge to be imitators of God
2. Challenge to be sexually pure
3. Challenge to be satisfied in Christ
4. Challenge to watch your speech
5. (And that's just the first 5 verses)

D. Remember, the christian walk is a battle

1. "Beware of manufacturing a God of your own: a God who is all mercy, but not just; a God who is all love, but not holy; a God who as a heaven for every body, but a hell for none; a God who can allow good and bad to be side by side in time, but will make no distinction between good and broad in eternity. Such a God is an idol of your own, as truly an idol as any snake or crocodile in an Egyptian temple. The hands of your own fancy and sentimentality have made him. He is not the God of the Bible, and beside the God of the Bible there is no God at all." ~ J. C. Ryle
2. Don't promise ease of life and physical safety...promise challenges so great that only God can carry you through!

II. Text

A. Verse 1:

1. the highest of standards for Christian living!
2. High Expectation is matched with Empowered Living

B. Verse 2:

1. And...an imitator of God is going to walk in the LOVE of God
 - a) That means embracing it for yourself
 - b) And giving it to others
2. Walk:
 - a) To Walk in this case is to conduct your life:
 - (1) To regulate ones life
 - (2) To conduct yourself
 - (3) Make proper use of opportunities!
 - b) This is not a random walking through life, but walking with purpose
3. In Love: immersed in Christ, covered in Christ, filled with Christ
4. As Christ loved and gave:
 - a) He is much more than an example, but certainly is an example
 - b) This truth permeates the entire chapter
 - c) We have His presence, and His power, so we must allow that to touch every aspect of our lives.
5. A fragrant offering and sacrifice to God:
 - a) This is another challenge to worship properly and obediently
 - b) This is where we are challenged to not be self centered and focused on our own desires, but look to the needs of others.

III. Point

A. Walk because you are LOVED

1. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.
 2. 1 John 3:16: 16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.
 3. We conduct ourselves in a way that demonstrates the LOVE of CHRIST has TRANSFORMED US
 - a) The only way for this to be true, is to be transformed...regenerate
 - b) Christ's presence in your life changed your reality, and that impacts your walk!
- B. Walk because you are Redeemed
1. We were LOST
 - a) That word...LOST
 - b) We like to use easier words...searching, misguided, unbelief, etc.
 - c) But LOST is a confrontation, don't forget where you came from, but don't forget how you got over it!
 2. We are Forgiven
 - a) I'm so thankful
 - b) I'm unworthy, yet chosen
 - c) I'm blessed with relationship with the most HIGH!
 3. We are Empowered
 - a) It is SPIRITUAL REALITY...A SPIRITUAL FACT:
 - b) You lack nothing needed for this walk you have been called to walk!
 - c) [Psa 34:8-10 ESV] 8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! 9 Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! 10 The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
 - d) [2Pe 1:3-11 ESV] 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- C. Walk because you are on MISSION
1. This mission is not for your elective participation
 2. This is the mission for which you have been redeemed.
 3. This mission can get clouded when it becomes something other than God's plan:
 - a) When you start looking for your will to be done rather than God's
 - b) When you look for recognition rather than making much of Jesus
 - c) We get trapped in the selfishness of our own minds so quickly!

4. It is so important to remind yourself daily that you are a servant of God, and that your only claim to fame is the blood of Jesus.
5. Quotes:
 - a) Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less. C. S. Lewis
 - b) Humility is not a character trait to develop, it's the natural by-product of being with Jesus. Louie Giglio
6. When I began this walk, I did not fully understand, but now I know...THIS LIFE IS NOT ABOUT ME, BUT ABOUT HIM!

IV. Close