

As to the LORD

Ephesians 5 and 6

[Eph 5:1 ESV] 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

I. Intro

- A. Today is big picture day: The way you conduct yourself matters
- B. The challenge from the past few months is to walk in a way that is honoring to the Lord.
- C. Today we try to to see things from a more connected perspective
 - 1. Like seeing a picture of the earth from an orbiting satellite.
 - 2. Very different than looking at a piece of grass under a microscope
- D. Don't miss the point of this truth by only looking at the details.
- E. Your life is intended to demonstrate the relationship of Christ and the Church
 - 1. Walk in Love:
 - a) God is Love
 - b) [1Jo 4:7-8 ESV] 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
 - 2. Walk in Light:
 - a) God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.
 - b) [1Jo 1:5 ESV] 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
 - 3. Walk in Wisdom:
 - a) God is Wise and Grants Wisdom
 - b) [Rom 16:27 ESV] 27 to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.
 - 4. Walk in Proper Relationship:
 - a) As husbands and wives: Submission, Love, and Respect...LIKE CHRIST
 - b) As parents and children: Submission, Obedience, and Leadership...LIKE CHRIST
 - c) As servants and bosses: Submission, Honesty, Integrity, and Kindness...like Christ!

F. This is WORSHIP, this is RESPONSE, this is AMAZING GRACE!

II. Text:

- A. 5:1: as dearly loved children
- B. 5:2 as Christ loved the church
- C. 5:3 as is proper among the saints
- D. 5:8 as Children of light
- E. 5:15 as wise
- F. 5:22 as to the Lord
- G. 5:23 as Christ is head of the church
- H. 6:5 as you would Christ
- I. 6:6 as bondservants of Christ
- J. 6:7 as to the Lord

III. Points

- A. Our Walk is a Response to Christ
 - 1. As dearly loved children
 - 2. All of these practical areas of application are challenging us to imitate Christ
 - 3. Our walk, or response, to this truth is a reflection of how deeply we believe this truth.
 - 4. The WHY, WHAT, and HOW
 - a) What: Actions of the saints: walk, submit, serve, lead, love, etc.
 - b) Why: Chapters 1-3 of Ephesians: the truth and reality of God: Divine Indicative
 - c) How: as to the Lord

5. We are choosing our response in relationship to Christ: the actions of the Saints.
 - a) Do your choices reflect what you claim to believe?
 - b) Do you respond to God the way Christ demonstrated for us to act?
 6. Where do we get this wrong?
 - a) Justification of sin
 - b) Explaining away sin
 - c) Looking to the sins of others before looking at your own
 7. You do what you believe!
- B. Our Walk is a Reflection of Christ
1. As Children of Light
 2. The Light exposes the darkness and the darkness flees
 - a) There is honesty in the light
 - b) There is no greater contrast between dark and light
 3. As the moon reflects the sun, we reflect Christ, and you can't fake this relationship
 - a) The importance of honesty
 - b) The importance of transparency
 - c) The importance of clarity
 - d) All are examples of the truth found in Christ.
 4. Our walk, or reflection, show how much we imitate Christ in our lives.
 5. We have a high calling, but that calling is not without the power of Christ.
 6. As light passes through a colored filter, the light takes on the characteristics of that filter:
 - a) Red filter...red light. Blue filter...blue light
 - b) The source can be seen on everything and makes a direct and noticeable impact.
 - c) This is a reflection of the source
 - d) Christ will have a similar impact on you!
 - e) HIS light impacts you, and REFLECTS HIM!
- C. Our Walk is Reverence for Christ
1. As to the Lord
 2. Our walk, or reverence, for Christ is seen in the reality of what we actually do.
 3. We do that which we believe, we cannot separate the two things in honesty
 4. Our response to any situation...AS TO THE LORD
 - a) Handle difficult things, people, situations as to the Lord
 - b) Yield to him in every way and learn the joy of relationship.
 5. Your life matters
 6. Your walk matters
 7. Your reaction matters
 8. Your EVERYTHING matters.
 9. As we begin to understand this, we jump ahead and see the FULL ARMOR OF GOD being available for us.
 10. The conclusion to this truth: PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD
 11. We have a powerful tool both individually and corporately
 - a) This armor is not just for the individual
 - b) It is even stronger when the armor is locked in with the other believers in our body.
- IV. Close
- A. Walk WITH Jesus
 - B. Walk FOR Jesus
 - C. Walk AS Jesus