

## A New Way To Walk (Eph 5:1-14)

*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, Eph 4:1 ESV*

Walk in unity 4:1-6

Walk in maturity 4:7-16

*This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Eph 4:13 NLT*

Walk no longer as the Gentiles but walk as the new man you are 4:17-32

Walk in Love 5:1-6

Walk as children of Light 5:7-14

**Big Idea** We imitate God as we love and reflect God's light!

### **Walk In Love**

The Command (1-2)

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Eph 5:1-2 ESV*

Therefore

Imitate God

*You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! <sup>45</sup> In that way, you will be **acting as true children of your Father in heaven.** Mt 5:43-45a NLT*

As beloved

Children

Walk in love

As Christ loved us

He gave Himself up for us

A fragrant offering and sacrifice to God

How not to live (3-4)

*<sup>3</sup> But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup> Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. Eph 5:3-4 ESV*

The results of this kind of activity (5-6)

*<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Eph 5:5-6 ESV*

### **Walk as children of Light**

The command (7)

*<sup>7</sup> Therefore do not become partners with them;*

The reason (8-10)

*<sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Eph 5:7-10 ESV*

*The underlying thought is based on Paul's "spheres of influence" theology. People take on the character of the sphere in which they live. Once they lived in darkness and were darkness; now they live in the light and are light. They are not light in themselves, of course; they are*

*only light “in the Lord.” When they are in him who is the light, they too are light. (NIV Application Commentary).*

Let the light do its work (11-14)

*<sup>11</sup> Take no part in don't be a partner in the unfruitful works of darkness, Eph 5:11a ESV*

*but instead expose them. Eph 5:11b ESV*

*<sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Eph 5:12-14 ESV*

There is exposure to the light

It becomes visible/ it is revealed

It becomes light.

**Big Idea** We imitate God as we love and reflect God's light!

What could it look like for us to **Walk In love?**

Make sure we are experiencing God's overabundant love for us

Let it flow through us to others.

(picture of overflowing fountain)

What could it look like for us to **Walk as children of light?**

Be transformed by Jesus' light

*For it is Christ Jesus the Lord whom we preach, not ourselves; we are your servants for his sake. God, who first ordered 'light to shine in darkness', has flooded our hearts with his light. We now can enlighten men only because we can give them knowledge of the glory of God, as we see it in the face of Jesus Christ. II Cor 4: 6 Phillips*

## **Application**

*I can walk in love by...*

*I can walk as a child of light by...*