

EPHESIANS: Walking with God Text: Ephesians 5:1-21

How to reflect the image of God in our life

Introduction:

1. When I was a kid I wanted to be just like my dad...

- a. Dad worked on cars, so I wanted to work on cars. He was in the Navy so I wanted to be
- b. He worked at a chemical plant so I wanted to work at that plant. He Hunted, Fished, etc.
- c. I looked up to my dad — but as a kid, my feet were too small to fill his shoes.

2. Our Father in heaven wants His children to be like Him...

He Created us in His Image for a purpose—to reflect the image of God in our life

- a. God is Spirit—and He created us with a Spirit.
- b. God has Divine Mind—He Created us with a Mind.
- c. God has Divine Consciousness—He Created us with Human Consciousness.
- d. God is Moral—He Created us as Moral Beings.
- e. God is Love—He Created us with the capacity for Love.
- f. God is Holy—He made a way for us to be holy.

3. We are created in the image of God—to reflect the image of God in our life.

So Paul reveals 3 Ways We Are to reflect the image of God in our life

I. WALK IN LOVE (5:1–7)

A. AS A CHILD OF GOD (v.1)

1. ‘Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.’ (5:1)

- a) That we are to make God our example and model.
- b) We can’t content ourselves comparing us among men.

2. Since we are children of God, created in the image of God, then we are to live like it.

- Jesus said, “you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.” (Mt 5:48)
- “be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.” (Lk 6:36)
- “as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:15-16)
- So that, “you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” (2 Pet 1:4)

3. God is love – therefore we are to walk in love... —BUT HOW?

B. FOLLOWING CHRIST AS OUR EXAMPLE (v.2)

1. Jesus is our example—we are to walk with Him and like Him. (1 Jn 2:6)

2. Jesus’ love was a pure selfless love...

This is the love He commands of us (John 15:12-15)

3. Jesus Died for us—even when we were enemies of His!

- a) Even While We Were in Rebellion to God... Enemies of God... Jesus died for us!

4. It is the Greatest expression of love—is undeserved forgiveness.

a) He Forgave us by Dying for us—to pay our debt in full at the Cross!

5. We are to share the love of God with others...

a) Ex. The snow melt of mount Hermon feeds the sea of Galilee...

The Jordon River then flows life giving water south in the Jordon valley

But the Dead Sea collects this water but does not release it.

Nothing can live there because it takes but does not give.

C. LOVE THAT IS PURE—NOT CORRUPTED BY PERSONAL GAIN (v.3–7)

1. Whatever God establishes, satan will counterfeit

a) The world redefines words for their own agenda—into a corrupt counterfeit...

b) Which is why people today use the word ‘love’ to excuse any type of sin...

As long as it’s “love” then it’s OK...

c) Because they love themselves more then they love the Truth

2. Don’t Be Deceived—Empty words do not change the Truth.

a) Empty words are the empty arguments used by those who oppose the truth...

b) Who try to defend the godless ideologies of our age & the immorality of our culture.

3. We are called to a self-sacrificing love—not a self-focused agenda.

• “Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith (1 Timothy 1:5)

• “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. (Rom 12:9)
—> **God is Love — therefore we are to walk in love. (Jn 14:15; 1 Jn 2:4–6)**

II. WALK IN LIGHT (5:8–14)

A. WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT (v.8–10)

1. God is light — therefore we are to walk in light

a) When the Bible says God is light—it refers to His pure absolute Holiness

b) (1 John 1:5-6) “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

2. We were once a part of the darkness... (v.8) For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

3. Jesus delivered us from the power of darkness (Col 1:12-14)

B. LIGHT EXPOSES DARKNESS (v.11-14)

1. Light Exposes Darkness—so the Darkness hates the Light (John 3:19–21)

a) This is why they hated Jesus... Jesus said, If they hate me, they will hate you.

b) Why? Because Darkness hates the Light.

2. The Word of God is a Lamp unto our feet and light for our path...

a) Without the Bible we are walking in the dark...

b) But Many won’t read the Bible — it shines a bright light on their heart.

3. So Satan created a counterfeit (2 Cor 11:13-14)

- a) A Counterfeit to blind people's minds to the truth (2 Cor 4:3-4, 6)

C. WALKING IN THE LIGHT

1. God is light—so we must walk in the Light (1 John 1:5-7)

2. This is how we know who is walking with God (1 John 2:9-11; v.3-6)

3. Cast off the works of darkness & put on the armor of light (Rom 13:11–12)

III. WALK IN WISDOM (5:15–21)

A. WALKING IN WISDOM

1. God did not create us to be shallow thinkers—but to be deep thinkers

a) Ex: I met an older man who was a retired psychologist from L.A.

b) I asked if he believed in God and he proudly said no he did not.

c) He told me that he was sitting in a middle-school biology class when he decided that there was no God and he never thought or worried about it again after that.

d) He was a psychologist for 30 years! His entire career had to do with THINKING!
But the extent of his thinking was that NOTHING but MATTER exists!

e) I gave him a quote to “think” about by C.S. Lewis:

“The Naturalists have been engaged in thinking about Nature. They have not attended to the fact that they were thinking. The moment one attends to this, it is obvious that one’s own thinking cannot be merely a natural event, and therefore something other than Nature exists.”

2. Wisdom is seeing beyond the apparent—to that which is real.

Beyond the physical—to that which is spiritual.

Beyond the temporary—to that which is eternal.

3. Every Good Gift is From Above—so True Wisdom is from above

but Satan always offers a counterfeit from below (James 3:13–18)

a) Two Sources... Two Natures... Two Wisdoms... Two Outcomes...

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WISE

1. The Wise are CAREFUL— (v.15)

- They watch where they are going so they are walking in the light
- Making sure they don't drift with the cultural currents of the world.

2. The Wise are INTENTIONAL— (v.15)

- Culture is Temporary — Truth is Timeless.
- So they build their life on the rock of Truth—God's Word...
- not cultural sands of relativism or atheism or Humanism.

3. The Wise are MINDFUL— (v.16)

- Knowing that our time is limited and our life is short
- Knowing the days are evil because we live in an age of darkness

- **Age of Deception (1 Tim. 4:1–2)** Many would depart from the True Faith. Doctrine of demons: would include the popularity of occult beliefs, New Age beliefs and practices. Mysticism and “spiritual, not biblical” belief trends...
- **Age of Darkness (2 Timothy 3:1–4)** This describes the corrupt age of darkness we live in today, deceived by the prince and ruler of darkness.
- **Our life is short and God will judge the world and destroy evil forever.**

4. The Wise are SPIRITUAL— (v.17-18)

- They desire to know God — and what His will is for their life...
- They seek Him and find Him for they seek Him w/ all their heart

5. The Wise are SOBER— (v.17-18)

- No longer self-medicating w/ wine or alcohol or drugs...
- to numb their mind or their conscience or their life...
- They are sober-minded and spiritually alert (1 Thes. 5:5–10)

6. The Wise are THANKFUL— (v.19-20)

- Praising God from the Heart
- Giving Thanks to God for Saving them.
- Giving Thanks to God for Forgiving them.

7. The Wise are HUMBLE— (v.21)

- The fear of the Lord is the Beginning of wisdom.
- True wisdom is found by the humble...
- but counterfeit wisdom appeals to the prideful.

"The most misleading way to feel wise is to feel superior." —Derek Kinder

True Wisdom is not from this world — True Wisdom is from Above...

We all need True Wisdom so James tells us to ask God for it (James 1:5)

CONCLUSION:

- 1. We can't do this alone—by our own strength or will-power**
- 2. This is all a part of God's Plan...He is working in us and for us for us, in order for us to become like Christ (Rom 8:28-29).**
- 3. But We are a work in progress (Philippians 1:6)**
- 4. Let Him complete the work He started in you...**
God will see us through, and bring us through
He promised He will never leave you nor forsake you