

Walking in Love and Light

Ephesians 5:1-15

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Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

Ephesians 5:1-15, cont.

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. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

Ephesians 5:1-15, cont

Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Walking – How We Live

- **“Walk in a manner worthy of the calling you have received” (Eph. 4:1).**
- **“Do not walk as the Gentiles do” (Eph. 4:17):**
- **“Walk in love ... light ... wisdom” (Eph. 5).**
- **We are called to walk in the love and light of Christ, that comes from His own Person, that becomes ours through our new birth and through His indwelling Spirit.**

1. Be Imitators of God

- **“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 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).**
 - God is our standard
- **The New Self: desires to follow Christ, identifies with God, is nurtured by God’s Word, seeks the fellowship of His Spirit, and is unsatisfied by the world.**

The Dual Nature of the Christian

- The sinful nature and the new man in Christ.
- “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord” (Eph. 5:8).
- “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom. 12:2).

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James Butler Bonham

James Butler Bonham: No picture of him exists. This portrait is of his nephew, Major James Bonham, deceased, who greatly resembled his uncle. It is placed here by the family that people may know the appearance of the man who died for freedom.



2. Do Not Imitate the World

- **“But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. 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).**
- **“And the world is passing away, along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:17).**

Strategic vs Tactical

- **Strategic is long-term.**
- **Tactical is short-term.**
- **Battles are won by tactics.**
- **Wars are won by strategies.**
- **Christ as an example is God's tactic.**
- **Christ as our life is God's strategy.**

3. Form Your Identity in Christ

- **“Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord” (Eph. 5:8-10).**
- **“For with you is the fountain of life; in our light do we see light” (Psa. 36:9).**
- **C.S. Lewis: “I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”**

The Promise

- **“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you” (Eph. 5:15).**
- **Realize what the will of God is.**
- **Confess where you have failed.**
- **Break impure habits of thought and action.**
- **Let Christ feed your soul and spirit through His Word.**