

Imitating Our Father – Ephesians 5:1-17

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Introduction

1. If we are the children of God, then we ought to imitate our Father. This is the basis for the three admonitions in this section. God is love (1 John 4:8); therefore, “walk in love” (Eph. 5:1–2). God is light (1 John 1:5); therefore, walk as children of light (Eph. 5:3–14). God is truth (1 John 5:6); therefore, walk in wisdom (Eph. 5:15–17).

I. Walk In Love (5:1-2)

a. He Is God’s Child

i. When Paul encouraged his readers to “walk in love,” he was not asking them to do something that was foreign to the Christian life; for we have received a new nature that wants to express itself in love.

b. He Is God’s Beloved Child

c. He Was Purchased With A Great Price

i. Our love for Him is our response to His love for us (John 15:13; Romans 5:10). Paul begins with “walk in love” because love is the fundamental factor in the Christian life. If we walk in love, we will not disobey God or injure men because “he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law” (Romans 13:8).

II. Walk As Children Of Light (5:3-14)

a. We Are Saints (v3-4)

i. We have been “called out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9). It is beneath the dignity of a saint to indulge in the sins that belong to the world of darkness, some of which Paul names here.

b. We Are Kings (v5-6)

i. When we trusted Christ, we entered into the kingdom of God (John 3:3); but we are also awaiting the full revelation of His kingdom when He returns (2 Tim. 4:1). Paul makes it clear that people who deliberately and persistently live in sin will not share in God’s kingdom (Galatians 5:21).

c. We Are Light (v7-14)

i. To “walk as children of light” means to live before the eyes of God, not hiding anything. But walking “as children of light” also means revealing God’s light in our daily lives. By our character and conduct, we bring God’s light into a dark world.

III. Walk In Wisdom (5:15-17)

a. It Is A Mark Of Wisdom (v15)

i. Ephesians 5:14–15 are related. Paul appeared to be saying, “Don’t walk in your sleep! Wake up! Open your eyes! Make the most of the day!”

b. Life Is Short (v16a)

i. The brevity of life is a strong argument for making the best use of the opportunities God gives us.

c. The Days Are Evil (v16b)

d. God Has Given Us A Mind (v17a)

i. “Understanding” suggests using our minds to discover and do the will of God. God does not want us simply to know His will; He wants us to understand His will.

e. God Has A Plan For Our Lives (v17b)

i. He reveals His plan through His Word (Col. 1:9–10), His Spirit in our hearts (Col. 3:15), and the working of circumstances (Rom. 8:28). The Christian can walk carefully and accurately because he knows what God wants him to do. Like the builder following the blueprint, he accomplishes what the architect planned.