

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 5:1-17**.
- B. God is holy--perfect in every way. We are made in His image; it better us to live like Him.
- C. Paul has asked us to be imitators of God as we live our daily lives. In this section of his letter to the Ephesians the apostle mentions four things we can do, to accomplish that goal.

I. **FIRST, WALK IN LOVE (Eph. 5:1-2).**

- A. When we read the great love chapter (1Cor. 13:1-8), we can substitute our name for the word love and make comparisons to see if we have the attributes of a loving person.
- B. John gives us the common sense information that to live is to do something. Words alone are not love (1Jn. 3:18).
Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.
- C. Jesus told us of the greatest love, and then did it Himself (Jn. 15:13).
"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."
- D. The great model of how to show love is found in X. Spend time studying His life so that you may know how to live better (Eph. 5:2).

II. **SECOND, WALK IN PURITY (Eph. 5:3-6).**

- A. Paul has quite a list here of sins and evil things to be avoided. Holy people try hard not to involve themselves in these kinds of activities. Stay away from:
 - 1. Immorality (fornication).
 - 2. Impurity (uncleanness).
 - 3. Greed (covetousness).
 - 4. Filthiness (indecent).
 - 5. Silly talk (foolish chit-chat).
 - 6. Coarse jesting (not courteous).
 - 7. Covetousness (selfish).
 - 8. Idolatry (false worship).
- B. One of the "classic" verses in the NT is in Jas. 1:27.
This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.
- C. Now look at the similarities between it and; Mic. 6:8; Mt. 22:37-39. The three relationships of God, others, and self are there.
(Mic 6:8) He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?
(Mt 22:37-39) And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 'This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 'The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'
- D. To "do justice" (others), "keep unspotted" (self), and to "love God" (God) is to walk in ways of purity.
- E. Let us always remember the admonition of 1Tim. 4:12 is not just to the young.
Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

III. **THIRD, WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT (Eph. 5:7-14).**

- A. Jesus said the road we must walk is a narrow one. A wide road might be easier, but only the narrow one leads to eternal life (Mt. 7:13-14).
"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. 14 "For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.
- B. Walking in the light (see Eph. 5:9-10) means:
 - 1. Goodness, a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22).
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

2. Righteousness, being right with God (Mt. 25:46).
 “And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”
 3. Truth, that which will make us free (Jn. 8:31; 14:6).
 (Jn 8:31) Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;...
 (Jn 14:6) Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.”
 4. Learning what is pleasing to God (Mt. 23:8).
 “But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers.”
- C. Walking in the light (see Eph. 5:11-14) means:
1. We do not participate in the evil deeds of darkness (5:11).
 2. Our life illuminates evil deeds as being evil due to our difference of lifestyle (5:11).
 3. We do not talk about sinful things done in “secret” (5:12).
 4. Our life should be an encouragement to do the right things (5:13-14).

IV. **FOURTH, WALK AS WISE PEOPLE (Eph. 5:15-17).**

- A. Our lifetime gets shorter and shorter each day. Since we are running out of time, we need to live each day as righteously and as wisely as possible.
- B. Many of us have heard, “Look before you leap.” Let’s always look before we walk.
- C. We are to invest or spend our time in such a way that we might be able to redeem it.
- D. Knowing what to do and what not to do is something a Xian needs to be aware of. There will always be an evil influence to deal with (5:16).
- E. Let’s be wise in the scriptures (know the Lord’s will) not in our own estimation (Hos. 4:6).
 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.
- F. Evil companions corrupt good morals. Let us walk as wise, not as unwise (1Cor. 15:33).
 Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. A review of four short rules of how to be an imitator of God:
 1. Walk in love.
 2. Walk in purity.
 3. Walk as children of light.
 4. Walk as wise people.
- B. Ephesians 5:6 says that we need not be deceived. Empty words will not produce imitators.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.