

## “Walk!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Prayer** - **Careless sin** quickly gets out of control and does more damage than we can imagine. (Like a match to dry grass. What starts as playing around, ends up ruining many lives)
- 1.2. **Intro:** Paul intended that these exhortations **guide** believers into *patterns of wise living!* - He wanted them to develop the following qualities in their Christian lives.
- 1.3. (1) Here Paul launches us to the **highest standard possible...**
- 1.4. **Be imitators of God?** – means imitators, mimics. [Pres tense continuous, *ongoing action*]
- 1.5. **Q:** But how can **finite human beings** imitate an **infinite God?**
- 1.6. **Q:** If we are called to be “**God copiers,**” then **What does a *God copier* look like? What needs to be done? – We need to:**
  - 1.6.1. **Walk in Love**(2); **Walk in Purity**(3-7); **Walk in Light** (8-14); **Walk in Wisdom**(15-20); & **Walk in Submission**(21).
  - 1.6.2. **Walk** = to conduct one’s life in a certain way.
  - 1.6.3. **We look like God the most when we give to him our very best!**
- 1.7. **What you are** is God's gift to you. **What you make of yourself** is your gift to God.
- 1.8. In 1820, **Charles Caleb Colton** coined the phrase that states: “**Imitation** is the sincerest form of flattery.”
- 1.9. James Baldwin, an American writer, once said, “Children have never been good at **listening** to their elders, but they have **never failed to imitate them.**”
  - 1.9.1. 3 Jn11 “**Beloved, do not imitate** what is evil but what is good. **He who does good** is from God, but he who does **evil** has not seen God.”

2. **WALK IN LOVE! (2)**

- 2.1. The next challenge - Live a life of **love!** (a daily behavior!)
- 2.2. **Christ loved us & gave His life for us** – Like the story of a soldier that was wounded so badly he had to get an amputation. The surgeon after the surgery said to him: "I am sorry to tell you that you have **lost** your arm." "Sir," said the lad, "I did not **lose it; I gave it** - for my country."
- 2.3. **Offering** – products from the **field**.
- 2.4. **Sacrifice** – animals from the **flock**
- 2.5. **Sweet smelling aroma** – speaks of its **acceptableness**.
- 2.6. **An offering & a sacrifice** always speaks of a “**cost!**”
  - 2.6.1. **What happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?** 5 signers were captured by the British as traitors, & tortured before they died. 12 had their homes ransacked and burned. 2 lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army, another had 2 sons captured. 9 of the 56 fought and died from wounds or the hardships of the Revolutionary War.

- 2.6.2. There **was** and **is** a tremendous price to pay for freedom.  
 2.6.3. With **love** there is always **sacrifice**(a cost).

### 3. **WALK IN PURITY! (3-7)**

- 3.1. Paul doubles back & attacks the sins of the pagan world.  
 3.1.1. 1<sup>st</sup> sins of **sexual immorality** (3).  
 3.1.2. 2<sup>nd</sup> sins of **conversation** (4).
- 3.2. (3) **Fornication** (illicit sexual activity).  
 3.2.1. **Uncleanness** (a broader term for impurity).  
 3.2.2. **Covetousness** (greediness, often used to describe *uncontrolled sexual desire*)
- 3.3. (4) **Filthy talk** - Obscenities. *Shameful, filthy, or obscene speech*.  
 3.3.1. **Foolish talk** – Silly talk. Talk of fools. The conversation of a drunkard.  
 3.3.2. **Course talk** – quick wit. Crude joking. Makes light of human weakness or human goodness.
- 3.4. **A man** sat down to supper with his family, saying grace, **thanking God for: the food, for the hands which prepared it, and for the source of all life.**  
**But** during the meal **he complained about: the freshness of the bread, the bitterness of the coffee and the sharpness of the cheese.**  
 His young daughter questioned him, "Dad, do you think God heard the grace today?" He answered confidently, "Of course."  
 Then she asked, "And do you think God heard what you said about the coffee, the cheese, and the bread?" Not so confidently, he answered, "Why, yes, I believe so."  
 The little girl concluded, "Then which do you think God believed, Dad?"
- 3.5. (5) Paul underscores the seriousness of this kind of behavior by saying (**Read** vs.5).

### 4. **WALK IN THE LIGHT! (8-14)**

- 4.1. (8) **Children of light** - The Essenes and other Jewish pietists used this term to denote **God's elect**.  
 4.1.1. If God is light then naturally His kids would be also!  
 4.1.2. Think **purity**, not **lumens!** - Think **spiritual** light not **phys** light!
- 4.2. **Light produces Good Fruit!** (9)  
 4.3. Here are some of the **products** of light (**goodness, righteousness, truth**).  
 4.4. **Walking in the light** produces spiritual **fruit!**
- 4.5. **Light Exposes Motives!** (10)  
 4.6. Light enables the Christian to discriminate between what is **pleasing** & what is **not pleasing!**<sup>1</sup>  
 4.6.1. Here is where all **motives, attitudes, & actions** must be tested!  
 4.6.2. We are to find out what pleases the Lord!

<sup>1</sup> Shepherd Notes; pg.60.

- 4.7. Just find out what's acceptable...**to the Lord!** (i.e. not others)
- 4.7.1. An old fable tells about an **elderly man** who was traveling **with a boy** and **a donkey**. As they walked through a village, the man was leading the donkey and the boy was walking behind. The townspeople said the old man was a fool for not riding, so to please them he climbed up on the animal's back. - When they came to the next village, the people said the old man was cruel to let the child walk while he enjoyed the ride. So, to please them, he got off and set the boy on the animals back and continued on his way. - In the 3<sup>rd</sup> village, people accused the child of being lazy for making the old man walk, and the suggestion was made that they both ride. So the man climbed on and they set off again. - In the 4<sup>th</sup> village, the townspeople were indignant at the cruelty to the donkey because he was made to carry 2 people. - The frustrated man was last seen carrying the donkey down the road. [Just find out what's acceptable to the Lord!]
- 4.8. **Light Exposes Evil!** (11,12)
- 4.9. Light exposes the unfruitful works of darkness.
- 4.9.1. **Evil activity**, when dragged into **the light of Christ**, is seen for what it is & dies a natural death. (story of **woman** caught in adultery, is really the story of **the men** caught in hypocrisy!)
- 4.10. **Light Cleanses!** (13,14)
- 4.11. Like the Essenes, the early Christians used to **sing hymns at dawn** in praise of the "**Sun of Righteousness**"(cf. Malachi 4:2). These lines may be from one such hymn.<sup>2</sup>

## 5. **WALK IN WISDOM!** (15-20)

- 5.1. (15) **Circumspectly** – carefully. Carries the idea of looking around carefully so as not to stumble.
- 5.1.1. **Q:** Have you ever **not** turned on the light at night & ended up catching your **baby toe** on the corner of something?
- 5.1.1.1. We need to **take advantage** of the **light** He has given us!
- 5.1.2. It means, walking intelligently and not in ignorance.
- 5.1.3. How foolish to stumble along through life and never seek to know the will of the Lord!
- 5.1.4. Instead of walking "accurately", they miss the **mark**, miss the **road**, & end up **suffering on some detour**.
- 5.1.5. God wants us to be **wise** & understand **His will** for our lives.
- 5.2. (16,17) **Redeeming the time** – "buy up the opportunities".
- 5.2.1. The idea here is **not clock time** but what one writer calls "**kingdom opportunities**."

<sup>2</sup>Stern, D. H. (1992). *Jewish New Testament commentary : A companion volume to the Jewish New Testament*.

- 5.2.1.1. Those openings for ministry that often come at inconvenient times: a **friend** who wants to talk; a **child** with a problem; the chance to **lend a hand** to someone in need.
- 5.2.2. Paul is encouraging us to **keep our lives uncluttered** so that we can respond when the need arises - because kingdom opportunities can get squeezed out of an overly tight schedule.
- 5.2.3. And **do not waste time, energy, money, & talent** in that which is apart from His will.
- 5.2.4. **Lost opportunities may never be regained; they are gone forever.**
- 5.3. Remember in "*The Dead Poet's Society*" Robin Williams says in an *erie grave-like voice*, "**Carpe Diem!**" (L. seize the day) "**Seize the day boys! Make your lives extraordinary**"
- 5.4. (17) Only after 1 **understands** what pleases God(1) can he **carry it out** in his life.
  - 5.4.1. **Understand His Word & you'll understand is Will!**
- 5.5. (18) Let's step back to Ephesus in Paul's day...
- 5.6. **Dionysus**(Di-on-I-sus), in Greek mythology, **god of wine and vegetation**, who showed mortals how to **cultivate grapevines and make wine**.
  - 5.6.1. He eventually became the popular **Greek god of wine and cheer**, & wine miracles were reputedly performed at certain of his festivals.
- 5.7. **Dionysus is also characterized as a deity whose mysteries inspired ecstatic, orgiastic worship.**
- 5.8. The divine mission of Dionysus was to mingle the **music of the flute** and to bring an end to care and worry.
- 5.9. **A son of Zeus & Semele**(sem'-uh-lee).
  - 5.9.1. Semele demanded of Zeus that he reveal himself in all his glory as proof of his godhood. Though Zeus begged her not to ask this, she persisted and he agreed. Mortals, however, cannot look upon a god without dying. He came to her wreathed in bolts of lightning and she perished in the ensuing blaze. Zeus rescued the fetal Dionysus, however, by sewing him into his thigh(referred as his testicles). A few months later, Dionysus was born.
- 5.10. **According to tradition, Dionysus died each winter and was reborn in the spring.**
  - 5.10.1. To his followers, this cyclical revival, accompanied by the seasonal renewal of the fruits of the earth, embodied the promise of the resurrection of the dead.
- 5.11. **There are many parallels between Dionysus and Jesus. And similarities to Ephesus.**
  - 5.11.1. Both were said to have been born from a virgin mother, a mortal woman, but fathered by the king of heaven; To have returned from the dead; To have transformed water into wine; And to have been liberator of mankind. [Paul ties in **drunkenness, bearing fruit**, etc.]

- 5.12. **Key: The worshippers** of Dionysus felt they were *united, indwelled, & controlled* by Dionysus who gave them **special powers & abilities**.
- 5.12.1. Thus to be **filled**/controlled with **wine** or **the Spirit** was **the contrast**.
- 5.12.2. The indwelling Spirit of God should **continually control & dominate** the life of the believer! [*present tense* calls for the *continual & habitual action*]
- 5.13. 2 examples of being filled:
- 5.13.1. **A man who drank heavily** was converted to Christ and lived victoriously for several weeks. One day as he passed the open door of a tavern, the pungent odor drifting out aroused his old appetite for liquor. Just then he saw this sign in the window of a nearby cafe: "**All the buttermilk you can drink -- 25 cents!**" Dashing inside, he ordered one glass, then another, and still another. After finishing the third he walked past the saloon and was no longer tempted. **He was so full of buttermilk that he had no room for that which would be injurious to him.** The lesson is clear: to be victorious over our evil desires, we must leave no opportunity for them to repossess us.
- 5.13.2. **Dwight L. Moody** once demonstrated the principle like this: "Tell me," he said to his audience, "how can I get the air out of the tumbler I have in my hand?" One man said, "Suck it out with a pump." But the evangelist replied, "That would create a vacuum and shatter it." **Finally** after many suggestions, moody picked up a pitcher and quietly **filled the glass with water**. "There," he said, "all the air is now removed." He then explained that **victory for the child of God does not come by working hard to eliminate sinful habits**, but rather **by allowing the Holy Spirit to take full possession**.
- 5.14. (19) **Psalms** – the songs of **Israel** in the O.T.
- 5.15. **Hymns** – obviously not the Hymns we sing today...because they weren't around then! – They were "new songs" of the **Christian faith**.
- 5.16. **Spiritual songs** – songs shared among the believers to praise God with.
- 5.17. This praise was to be accompanied with thanksgiving.

## 6. **WALK IN SUBMISSION! (21)**

- 6.1. Submitting to one another...in that we all have to submit to somebody.
- 6.1.1. I believe the following passage defines what he means by this.
- 6.2. **End: Ever have a bag of cement get wet & set up on you?**
- 6.2.1. It becomes hardened in that shape that was never intended.
- 6.2.2. That bag of cement was meant to become a part of some beautiful structure but, because it did not reach its place of service, it became a useless rock in the form of a bag of cement.
- 6.2.3. God wants to make something beautiful of your life. Don't let this purpose be thwarted by a bump in the road of life.