

## Walk in Love; Ephesians 5:1-2

- I. Therefore
  - A. Walking in love does not come easy
    1. It means we must deny the immediate reaction
    2. It means we must think about how to react in love, not bitterness or hate
    3. It means we must watch what we say and what we do
  - B. Ephesians 4:28–32 (ESV); <sup>28</sup> Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. <sup>29</sup> Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
  - C. Chapter 5 opens with “therefore” which means we look at what came “before”
- II. Imitators of God
  - A. Ephesians 5:1–2 (ESV); <sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
  - B. Imitate <sup>1</sup>
    1. To follow as a pattern, model, or example
    2. To be or appear like: resemble
    3. To produce a copy of: reproduce
  - C. The Greek English Lexicon uses this phrase — “use me as your model” <sup>2</sup>
  - D. This is not the first time that Paul uses this idea
    1. 1 Corinthians 4:16–17 (ESV)<sup>16</sup> I urge you, then, be imitators of me. <sup>17</sup> That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.
    2. 1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV); Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.
    3. The writer of Hebrews brings us this same concept
    4. Hebrews 6:11–12 (ESV); <sup>11</sup> And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, <sup>12</sup> so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
  - E. To walk in love is to imitate God
    1. Paul uses Jesus sacrifice at the cross as the example of walking in love
    2. A sacrifice, a fragrant offering to God
    3. When we walk in love, we are offering our sacrifice to God — we go back to the “before” of Ephesians 34:28-32
      - a) Every time we give to someone in need
      - b) Every time we hold our tongue from saying something discouraging and then say something encouraging
      - c) Every time we stop our actions from reflecting bitterness (an intense animosity), wrath (retribution, vengeance), anger, slander (false defamatory statements), and malice (a desire to cause pain or injury)
  - F. To walk in love is to change our desires into God’s desires

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<sup>1</sup> Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

<sup>2</sup> William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 652.

1. Matthew 26:37–38 (ESV); <sup>37</sup> And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.”
2. I want us to realize Jesus’ state of mind — “sorrowful unto death”
  - a) This was not stubbing his toe in the middle of the night on the end table
  - b) This was not a loved one in the hospital facing imminent death
  - c) This was Jesus facing his own mortality as a man — readying Himself for death
3. Matthew 26:39 (ESV); And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”
4. Matthew 26:42 (ESV); Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”
5. Matthew 26:44 (ESV); So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.
6. As He is being arrested, he reveals an escape plan that was in place just waiting for Him to say the word
7. Matthew 26:53 (ESV); Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?
8. But He did not use the escape plan, because the plan all along was His sacrifice — walking in love — for His creation

G. Walking in love is imitating the Father’s Love, the Son’s love for all humans

### III. Deception

- A. But it is not that easy to walk in love
- B. We live in a world filled with deception
- C. Ephesians 5:3–6 (ESV); <sup>3</sup> But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup> Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
- D. We live in a world that tells us we can behave almost any way we want as it pertains to our sexuality
  1. It doesn’t matter who we love
  2. A Chinese man married a robot he built
  3. A French woman says she is in love with a robot and will marry it when it is legal in France
  4. Our world is in a state of moral corruption and vileness — that is the meaning of “impurity”
  5. But God tells us the sexual immorality (“all impurity”) is wrong — it is sin
- E. We live in a world that tells us we can talk any way we like (this is changing a little because of certain movements)
  1. It doesn’t matter what we say
  2. My mother used to let me speak any way I wanted — I would often invite my friends over (I was maybe 10) and then curse in front of them and my mom
  3. You can’t go a whole day with hearing “idle” words (cursing, the Lord’s name in vain, etc.)
  4. You actually have to search for clean jokes nowadays!
  5. But God tells us that this kind of speech is wrong — it is sin
- F. Romans 1:18-32 is a admonition against sexual immorality and also contains a long list of sinful behavior — by no means is it all-inclusive
- G. Paul says that people who behave this way have “no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God”
- H. We are being deceived into thinking that sinful behavior is okay

- I. We will be responsible for our own deception (just like Eve)
- IV. Walk in Love
  - A. We are a people who sacrificially love those around us
  - B. We are a people who flee from sinful behaviors
  - C. We are a people who imitate God