

WALK THE WALK

Ephesians 4-5



- 1. Walk Worthy (4:1-16)**
- 2. Walk as New Men (4:17-31)**
- 3. Walk in Love (5:1-7)**
- 4. Walk in the Light (5:8-14)**
- 5. Walk in Wisdom (5:15-21)**
- 6. Walk in the Family (5:22-6:9)**

WALK IN LOVE

III. Walk in Love (Ephesians 5:1-7)

1 **Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.** 2 And **walk in love**, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

3 **But** fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

NIV

1. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2. and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

3. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7. Therefore do not be partners with them.

Sermon Outline: Walk in Love

Topic: Sit, Walk, Stand – Walk in Love

Title: Walk in Love

Scripture: Ephesians 5:1-2, 3-7

Introduction

Temptation to hurry on to finish

Two parts – verses 1-2, and verses 3-7

I. Be Imitators of God as dear children

1. Imitation – cheap imitation, pretense
2. The Way – the well-worn path, 1 Peter 2:21 – in his steps
3. WWJD – Charles Sheldon, *In His Steps*
4. Greatest form of flattery – “Filho de peixe, peixinho e”
5. “Mimetes” – mimic, mime
6. Disciple – disciplined follower, more than pupil (Karate Kid)

II. Walk in Love as Christ loved us

1. *The Four Loves* by CS Lewis (Storge, Philia, Eros, Agape)
2. Love of God – John 3:16, John 15:13 | John 3:16 lay down life,
3. Love God, Love Neighbor – Mt 22:37-40, Mark 12:30-31
 - a. (Self-sacrificing love) – see flash video
 - b. Sergeant York – hero WWI, Alvin York, 25/132
4. Smalley&Trent – *Two Sides of Love* – hard side, soft side
 - a. Lion – too bossy, story of boy who bought father’s time \$8.54
 - b. Beaver – too busy
 - c. Otter – too self-gratifying, pleasure seeking
 - d. Golden Retriever – too people pleasing
5. Love Chapter– I Corinthians 13 (Read *The Message*)
 - a. Grade your love quotient
 - b. Grade your personality type love

Conclusion & Application

1. Know your weaknesses – walk in love command, cause we don’t
2. Ask Christ to magnify your God-imitator part of personality
3. Pick one love-weakness from I Cor. 13
Work on it, meditate on it, pray about it, obsess about it, and surrender it daily until your progress is obvious to all. (I Timothy 4:15)

Closing Song: There is a Redeemer

“Walk in Love”

“as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us”

Introduction –

I'd like to blast ahead at full gallop, God says 'no', don't hurry. Don't gulp your food. Savor it. Mull it over. Chew your cud. Get all the juices out of it.

These verses, 5:1-7, are packed with succulent meaning. Let us squeeze out every drop, and chew on every morsel.

Verses 1-2 contain the first half of the truth Paul wishes to convey in the idea “Walk in Love.”

1. Be imitators of God as dear children
2. Love as Christ loved you.

Verses 3-7 are the antithesis of the positive command “Walk in Love.” It contains the warnings of how not to walk. Walk in love, not lust.

We will take these sections separately in two different messages. This morning we are looking just at verses 1 and 2.

1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

2 And **walk in love**, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

5:3. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7. Therefore do not be partners with them.

I. Be Imitators of God as Dear Children.

In our present culture it seems odd that Paul would exhort us to be “imitators.” In our minds “a cheap imitation” or a counterfeit comes to mind. But not so in Paul’s view. He is speaking with terminology of a DISCIPLER.

In the early church the disciples were known by outsiders as followers of “The Way.” They were men who walked in the footsteps of Jesus. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes unto the Father but by me.” (John 14:6) He is “the way”, literally, he is the path, stay on it. Walk as Jesus walked. Put your life steps into the footprints of Jesus. Walk in love as Jesus walked in love.

Paul is not saying try to be like God, or pretend to be like Jesus but literally, walk as Jesus walked. **Do as Jesus would do.** Live like Jesus Christ would live in your culture, on your job, in your community, in your home. W.W.J.D.? What would Jesus do? Is a popular expression and fad to wear bracelets with WWJD. It comes from an old novel by **Charles Sheldon, titled *In His Steps***. In the story a newspaper editor, Edward Norman, gets saved and takes the challenge to live as Jesus did or would. Before he made any choices he would ask himself, “What would Jesus do?” He found it got him into lots of trouble with the world. No one lives as Jesus would. Most Christians don’t even consider it necessary and certainly not advisable to live with that kind of godly conviction.

But it is exactly this that Paul is driving at. Live like Jesus. His is God’s Son, and you are God’s child too. So act like it. Walk in love as God’s dear children. Be imitators of God. He is your Father.

The word “imitator” is a correct translation. KJV says, “followers of God” but that is not exactly correct. The Greek word is “mimetes” from which we get the word mime or mimic.

The idea of “Disciple” enters here as well. We are to be Christ’s disciples. That often diluted to mean be his adherent. Simply, agree with his statements, his doctrine and teaching and you will be his disciple. But the word disciple is more like “apprentice.” He is our GURU and we are trainees. We do as he instructs us. We copy his moves, his actions, his gestures, his intonations, his dress, his hairstyle, his walk. Some attempted synonyms are “pupil, or “protégé” But they fall far short of the true meaning of disciple.

(ie) Reality TV: Kung Fu-style

Oh, how I wish this was coming to American television. Chinese television is launching a Kung Fu reality contest called Chinese Kung Fu Star Search. Starting in March, contestants will vie to be the public's favorite martial arts master. Viewers must judge on virtue, kung fu and artistry, and they will text message their votes each week. The whole contest is going to take place in the famous Shaolin Temple (ah, yes, Grasshopper) that was the backdrop for the 1970s Kung Fu television series. The monks at the Shaolin temple apparently decided to do the reality show as an effort to market the temple to the Chinese. The master called the kid "young **grasshopper**. David Carradine as Kwai Chang Caine.

Karate Kid,

The Karate Kid is a [1984 John G. Avildsen](#) film starring [Ralph Macchio](#) and [Pat Morita](#).
“Wax on. Wax off. Wax on. Wax off.”

Samurai

Swordsmanship was taught in a similarly relentless manner. One story tells of a master who would strike his students with a wooden sword at random times throughout the day and night, until the students learned to never relax their guard.

Like Father, like son. “Filho de peixe, peixinho é”

“Imitation is the greatest form of flattery.”

THIS IS LOVE: The Walk of Love is Painful

http://www.funlaugh.com/..swf/walk_flash.swf

This is a flash presentation of the walk to the cross.

The Love Verse – John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this that a man **lay down his life for his friends**.

Colossians 2:6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk** in him:

If we see God as a tyrant, an ogre, a mean old man, a vindictive Creator, a cold, indifferent and angry Father, we will not want to be imitators of God.

Part 2: “Love” is as Jesus loved.

(ie) The Four Loves, by C.S. Lewis (storge, philia, eros, agape)
“Agape” self-sacrificing love

Be like Jesus: “*What would Jesus do?*”

Worse yet: “*I don’t care what Jesus would do.*”

The Love Book (I John 3:16)

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because **he laid down his life for us:** and we ought to **lay down our lives** for the brethren.

(ie) **Smalley & Trent** – *Two Sides of Love* – hard and soft
Personality types –

Lion, Beaver, - love’s hard side

Otter, and Golden Retriever - love’s soft side

(There are many more animal type personality traits.)

All God’s creatures reflect the image of the Creator in some magnificent way. (CS Lewis agrees)

(ie) **The Love Chapter** –

I Corinthians 13 – *The Message*

It is not the wusey love of warm fuzzies, romantic love, or eros love.

Four Personalities

The Two Sides of Love – Gary Smalley & John Trent

Lion – son bought tough Dad's time

1. Born leaders
2. Immediate results
3. Time frame is important
4. Decisive
5. Reader's Digest conversations
6. Threatened by questions
7. Not afraid of confrontation or pressure

Beaver

1. Close watch on emotions
2. Read instruction books
3. Careful decisions
4. Use critical analytical thinking to solve problems.
5. Do it right or not at all
6. Anger turned inward
7. Focus on past

Otter

1. Just want to have fun
2. Great at motivating others
3. Avoid fine print,
4. Paint outside the lines
5. Optimists, everything will work out
6. Avoid confrontation like the plague
7. Great networkers

Golden Retriever – Sergeant York, p. 97

1. Intensely Loyal
2. Close relationships, best friends
3. Need to please - people pleasers, codependency, enablers
4. Full of compassion, empathy, sympathy
5. Adaptable – they flex to needs of others,
6. React to sudden changes, don't like it
7. Cling tenaciously to what they think is right

“Be imitators of God as his dear children...”

All of these personality types have difficulty with love. One would think that Jesus commands us all to be Golden Retrievers, but that isn't so. Sometimes love must be soft, sometimes touch, sometimes demanding, sometimes firm. Each of us must find the balance of “loving expression to our neighbor” within the framework of our dysfunctional personality traits.

Don't be deceived. There are more than four personality types. Each of us is constructed of a vast kaleidoscope of characteristics. We are all cross-breeds, and besides that there are whole other personality types that can be seen in the animal world.

There are:

Rats and Mice

Chickens and Vultures

Turtles and Rabbits

Cats and Dogs

Monkeys and Moles

Cheetahs and Ostriches

Pigs and Cows

Horses and Camels

Sheep and Goats

Bears and Badgers

Skunks and Squirrels

All God's creatures, he made them all. Each has its characteristic. In us there are a myriad of animal characteristics that make us who we are. The command to “Walk in love” comes to all of us regardless of personality type. We are all called to be like Jesus in sacrificial *Christ-like love*, regardless of your personality type.

The greatest of these is “love.” Love is...

Exercise: Evaluate Your Love Quotient

1 Corinthians 13

The Message by Eugene Peterson

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't (*express Christ-like*) **love**, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't (*overflow with Christ-like*) **love**, I'm nothing.

If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't (*demonstrate Christ-like*) **love**, I've gotten nowhere.

So, no matter **what I say, what I believe, and what I do**, I'm bankrupt without (*when I don't demonstrate Christ-like*) **love**.

- ___ My Love (personality) never gives up.
- ___ My Love cares more for others than for myself.
- ___ My Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
- ___ My Love doesn't strut,
- ___ My Love doesn't have a swelled head, (*big ego*)
- ___ My Love *isn't pushy with others,*
- ___ My Love doesn't *insist on* "me first."
- ___ My Love doesn't fly off the handle, *or lose its temper easily,*
- ___ My Love doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
- ___ My Love *doesn't rejoice when others fail,*
and doesn't revel when others grovel,
- ___ My Love *rejoices when it hears truth, even when it hurts,*
- ___ My Love puts up with anything, *and endures everything,*
- ___ My Love trusts God *completely when all seems lost,*
- ___ My Love always looks for the best, *even in the worst people,*
- ___ My Love doesn't *dwell on other people's mistakes, (It lets go of the past)*
- ___ My Love keeps on *keeping on even when the going gets tough.*
- ___ My Love never quits loving.

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**In every case the word LOVE should read "CHRIST-LIKE LOVE."
As an exercise substitute "My Personality" for "my love."**

Conclusion & Application

(ie) Grade your love quotient.

1. Know Yourself and Know Your Weaknesses
2. Ask Christ to Magnify the God-Imitator part of your personality
3. Pick one love weakness from I Corinthians 13

Work on it, meditate on it, pray about it, surrender it daily until your progress is seen by all.

I Timothy 4:15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.

Closing Song:

Redeemer, Savior, Friend

VERSE 1:

**I know You had me on your mind
When You climbed up on that hill
For You saw me with eternal eyes
While I was yet in sin
Redeemer Savior Friend**

VERSE 2:

**Every stripe upon Your battered back
Every thorn that pierced Your brow
Every nail drove deep through guiltless hands
Said that Your love knows no end
Redeemer Savior Friend**

CHORUS:

**Redeemer, redeem my heart again
Savior, shelter me from sin
You're familiar with my weaknesses
Devoted to the end
Redeemer Savior Friend**

VERSE 3:

**So the grace you poured out on my life
Will return to You in praise
I'll gladly lay down all my crowns
For the name of which I'm saved
Redeemer Savior Friend**

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