

TITLE: Walk in Love (Connected in our Walk/By Scent)

TEXT: Ephesians 5:1-2

EXEGETICAL PROPOSITION:

EXEGETICAL OUTLINE:

1. Imitate God as His Children (v1)
2. Imitate Christ as His Church (v2)
 - a. In Love
 - b. In Sacrifice

HOMELETICAL PROPOSITION: If we are God's children, we ought to walk like His Son.

Pre-Worship Reading: Passage – 1 John 3:1-3 – “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”

Reading for Musical Worship: Passage – Ephesians 3:17-19 – “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being **rooted and grounded in love**, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to **know the love** of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” [Paul is praying for the believers here back in Chapter 3 (v14) and prays that they might increasingly know the love of Christ – “knowing it, even though it passes knowledge”].

OPENING REMARKS/SERIES REVIEW: Connected - Ephesians **SLIDE #2 - Graphic:**

- **This morning** we are going to continue in our series entitled **Connected** – as we look at the book of Ephesians.
- Over the last number of weeks, we have been in Ephesians Chapter 4.
- This morning we will study just 2 verses at the beginning of Chapter 5.

SLIDE #3 - Title:

READING: Ephesians 5:1-2: *Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And **walk in love**, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*

PRAYER: *Inspire us through your word, “help us grasp the heights of your plans for us” – individually and for your church. Changed.*

INTRODUCTION/Attention/Illustration: **SLIDE #4 - Image:** **Types of Walking**

- Stroll
- Catwalk
- Power walking
- Saunter (British slang) – slow and relaxed

- Texting/Walking/Not paying attention
- Belfast Walk – usually what you do if you are alone at night – fast, aggressive to ward off danger.

The way in which we walk tells us something about us:

- Hereditary
- “Just like your old man”
- Perhaps, as you get older, you find yourself imitating your own father or mother?
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Context: SLIDE #5 - Outline: Here, in the book of Ephesians, Paul has been using this metaphor of “WALKING” to describe our manner of living.

- Walking is all encompassing – what we say, what we do, how we think – WALKING is the demonstration of how we are journeying through life.
 - Not running – Paul keeps that metaphor for those straining for the prize of seeking after Christ.
 - But all of us walk -whether good or bad.
- Here in Chapters 4-5, Paul has referenced “WALKING” 5 times.
- Ephesians 4:1 – “**walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called**”
 - 4:17 – How not to walk. “**henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart**”
 - Chapter 5:2 – “**walk in love**”
 - 5:8 – “**walk as children of light**”
 - 5:15 – “**walk circumspectly [carefully], not as fools, but as wise**”

Walks in Eph 4:1, 4:17, 5:1 (in love), 5:7 (in light), 5:15-17 (in wisdom)

Need: Some of need to take stock of how we are walking.

BTW, It is hard to consider your own walk at times – since you are doing the walking!

Really easy to be critical of someone else walk.

Introspective this morning.

Big Idea [Here’s what today is all about]: If we are God’s children, we ought to walk like His Son.

Transition: Look with me at v1...

I. Imitate God as His Children (v1) **SLIDE #6 - Outline:**

v. 1 Be [IMP] ye [2P] therefore followers of God, as dear children

Many of you have had the joy of raising or interacting with children in various ways.

- The **positive** or **negative** experience of children imitating you.
 - In my house, my children do some things that I could only possibly have come from my own example.

- Other things they do leave me scratching my head as to where they could have possibly learned such behavior.
- Paul's argument here in this opening verse of Chpt 5 – is that "WE" (believers).
 - Should be FOLLOWERS OF GOD.
 - IMITATORS OF HIM
 - MIMICING HIM
 - As His children.

How do we do that?

- Two fold: What was said before, and what is about to be said.
 - "Be ye **therefore** followers [imitators] of God"
 - "Therefore" – usually means its connected to what was just said before
 - Looking back into Eph 4.
 - Remember Eph 4:1 – "Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called"
 - Eph 4:17 – "henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk"
 - Outlines several conditions that mark these Gentiles
 - Before saying: (20) "ye have not so learned Christ"

There are two parts to this – Opposites – **What you were** and **what you are now (in Christ)**.

Imitating God in the NEW MAN, not the OLD.

Don't do vs Do do (v25-32)

The first (of two) dentations in High School

- I had nobly done my homework in time for Mathematics class.
 - I allowed a friend to copy my answers.
 - When the next class period rolled around, the teacher brought me and my friend to the desk.
 - She said "I KNOW that one of you, copied the other"
 - We wondered how she knew.
 - She said, "Your answer to the last question, was so wildly incorrect, that it is **UNDENIABLE, IT IS UNQUESTIONABLE** that you copied one another.
 - This is an example of imitating gone wrong...
- Paul is saying – in light of EVERYTHING I just outlined.
 - **IF you are PUTTING of the OLD MAN**
 - **PUTTING on the NEW MAN**
 - It should be **UNDENIABLE**
 - **UNQUESTIONABLE**
 - **It should be Evident.**
 - That we are children of God - because how we are living is imitating Him...

How can I know how to IMITATE GOD?

- Like children
 - Eph 2:19 – “family of God/household”
 - Children learn by being around their parents.
- Learn his character
- Follow his Word
- Rely on His Spirit

There is another way that we can Imitate or Follow the Example of God...By looking at the example of God's Son...

II. Imitate Christ as His Church (v2) **SLIDE #6 - Outline:**

v. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

How can we follow the example of Christ?

The beauty of having a “template” – instead of a blank sheet.

Christ is the template of what “God in the flesh” would look like.

1 Pet 1:16,

Eph 4:32,

1 John 4:11

A. In Love

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4:2 - With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.

4:15 - But speaking the truth in love

4:16b - maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Gospel

Love Links:

- Jesus is God's beloved Son (Matt 3:17) – same word in v1 (dear).
- Father loves them, like He loves Christ (John 17:23)
- 1 John 4:9-11 - In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.
- 1 John 4:19 - We love him, because he first loved us.
- 1 John 4:20-21 - If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

B. In Sacrifice/Devotion?

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A perfume is never neutral. It's either attractive, or revolting. "Mmmm" or "Ughh"
Smells have a way of doing this to us.

Paul goes on a little expanded thought here to give us an insight into what the life of Christ was like.
OT sacrifices/offerings etc

The fat

The smell.

PLEASING to GOD.

Christ's standard of love is selfless, sacrificial love.

Eph 5:25

John 15:13 – Greater love.

Romans 12:1-2 – sacrificial body

Also Gospel?

Conclusion: SLIDE #?: **Illustration:** On a Monday morning back in February 2024, the residents of Cape Town, South Africa woke up to a foul smell.^{1 2}

- An investigation was called to see what was causing this awful stink that was grossing out the vast majority of the city and its 4.8million residents.
 - Eventually, they discovered that the smell was coming from a cargo ship that had arrived on Sunday night.
 - The ship was making a stop to refuel and reload supplies as it traveled from Brazil to Iraq.
 - **The smell was** coming from the 19,000 cows that had been on the ship for the 2.5 weeks as it traveled across the Atlantic Ocean.
- One local described the smell as "the worst stench I have ever come across in my life"
- Another side, "it smelled so bad, I was put off of breathing"

Here is the question for us today: When you walk through your life...what do those around you think when you roll into town?

- Grateful for the sweet-smelling aroma of Christ?
- Grasping for breathe because of the stink of hypocrisy?

Pleasing to God, and attractive to those around us.

¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-68355434>

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-68342054>

Graveyard of Thought:

- Illustrations
 - Walking – types of
 - Imitating Parents
 - Mini-me
 - Just like your old man
 - Not just how you look.
 - But how you act
 - Smells
- Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should **walk** in them.
- 1 John – “Little Children”
- Discipleship – 1 Cor 11:1, 1 Thes 1:6-7