



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Walk in Love

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The setting is a Roman prison (60-62 A.D.) and Paul is addressing the established Christian (mostly Gentile) church in Ephesus where he was a pastor for several years. In this letter, Paul counters the false teachings that had started to plague the church and additionally provides encouragement and instruction in sound doctrine. While the first three chapters deal with doctrine, the church and the spiritual blessings in Christ, in the last three chapters Paul describes responsibilities of the Christian life. In the fifth chapter of Ephesians, Paul shares that Christians should be imitators of God; walking in love, light and wisdom.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. (Ephesians 5:1-2) NASB

Believers are to walk in Love. Paul shares that Christians are to be imitators or followers (KJV) of God because we are His children. Believers are to extend to others the same forgiveness and love that God has provide to them. In previous verses, Paul points out that believers are to *“lay aside the old self and ... put on the new self, ... in the likeness of God”* (4: 22-24). An example of being in that likeness, imitator or follower of God is a walk of love (Gk. agape). God’s ‘agape’ love for us gives us what is best for us and not necessarily what we want. Agape love is exhibited in John 3:16: *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”* Just like that sacrificial love of Christ that God gave to all who believe, the believers are to give themselves as a sacrificial love offering to God. That offering becomes pleasing to God, like a fragrant aroma. What should a believer avoid?

But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. (5:3-4)

Avoid immorality, impurity and greed. As Children of God, believers are to be different and to avoid any behavior that would bring dishonor to God and His family. Immorality, impurity, greed, covetousness (ESV-KJV), and the like are sins, and an absolute contrast to the holiness and nature of God; in turn these sins should not be reflected in the behaviors of His family members. Obscene and suggestive or crude talk is destructive to a holy and godly testimony of a believer and should be replaced with language and expressions that convey thankfulness to God. Believers, sealed by the Holy Spirit, (1:13-14) need to reflect who they are in Christ by their speech and behaviors, knowing that they have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (5:5)

God does not tolerate sin and sin has no place in the kingdom of Christ and God. Paul shares that an unregenerate person, one that has not accepted the gift of God found in the saving grace of Jesus the Christ, who had a life pattern of immorality and sin, does not have place in the kingdom of Christ.

For your Consideration:

- Do you imitate God in your daily walk? What are recent examples of ‘agape’ love?
- Does your daily language reflect who you are in Christ? Are you a good example in God’s family?
- Do you thank God daily for the grace, love and gift that He provided through the death of Christ on the cross that paid the price for our sins and assured us an inheritance in the kingdom of God?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS (SESSION OR HEARING DAYS) AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44

STATE STAFF AND LOBBYIST: WEDNESDAYS AT 12:10PM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44