

The Way to Walk

Ron Roberts

We are told three times in Eph. 5:1-16 how to walk. Walking refers to the way we live our lives. The proper walk consists of three ways to walk and a number of things to avoid. In the 4th chapter Paul spoke of taking off evil and putting on goodness. The same contrast continues in chapter 5.

Eph 5:1 *Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 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....*

8 *For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: **walk as children of light**: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord....*

15 *See then that ye **walk circumspectly**, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

Evil surrounds us day by day. The influence is powerful and we must be active and diligent to resist it. Wickedness will not be defeated passively. We must **walk in love**. Having a disposition of admiration for God and truth. We must **walk in light**, guided by His word and seeking to please Him. **Walking circumspectly** refers to careful and deliberate steps. The steps are thought out before they are taken. We know the wicked path is near and we can easily slip from our course and land upon it.

The verses that were omitted address the wickedness we are to avoid. It is interesting to see how many ways he tells us to avoid them and how far we are to stay from them. This is not a text that allows a casual acquaintance with evil. It does not support moderate flirtation with immorality. It urges a complete severing of the former relationship we had with darkness.

A list of sins is found in verse 3. The consequences of those same sins are found in verse 5. 3 *But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.* The degree of avoidance is seen in verse 3. It is "not to be once named among you"!

The 4th verse also adds to the idea of the degree of avoidance. We may see fornication as a terrible thing to do, but it is not so bad to joke about it in conversation. Paul says it is. He writes in verse 4 *Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.* Our minds and mouths should be active in praise of God and not teasing about the sins around us.

6 *Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.* We see from verse 6 how the evil infiltrates our lives. We are deceived by vain words. Words that tell us, "it's funny, don't be such a prude, this isn't so bad,," God's wrath will come on them. We dare not partake of what they are peddling.

11 *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. 12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.* We are to have NO fellowship with the works of darkness. They are not for our amusement, discussion, or thinking. It is shameful even to discuss the wicked works of these men. This was part of our past which has been buried when we became Christians.

The walk we used to walk has been revealed to us as evil through the word of God. The light has been shined on our dark path and the destination it will lead to. We departed from that path and we must not ever return to it but rather reprove it.

13 *But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.* It is through the light of God's word that we become aware of good and evil. It is not from professors, commentators, or the popular vote that we will learn what is right. Remember in verse 8 we were told that we were darkness. He did not say we were in it, but we were darkness. It was a part of who we were. We were so contaminated before the truth entered our life that no distinction could be made between the evil we did and the evil we were. But now we are light, not just in it. We are it! Walk like children of light should every day.

The final verse for our consideration is verse 14.

Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

We need frequent wake up calls. Years ago when I traveled I would call the hotel desk and tell them to wake me up at a certain hour. This was before I had an alarm on my watch. Usually the desk clerk was very diligent in getting me up on time.

Spiritually, we need to wake up. The world is seeping into our lives. Through the TV, the music, the books, the magazines, the news, the neighbors, the movies, the colleges, and many times through less dedicated Christians. We need to wake up and be careful where we walk. The days are evil and the time must be used wisely. We cannot sleep the day away and try to catch up to godliness later. Now is the time to put off the evil and put on the righteousness of God. Now is the time to shun the evil and have no more fellowship with it. Now is the time to stop hearing and telling jokes about sinful conduct. Let us actually be followers of God and walk the right way.