

## Episode #310 Ephesians 5 Part 1 – The Worthy Walk

I. In Ephesians 1-3, the Holy Spirit revealed to us all the glorious things that are true of us “in Christ.” Now, in Ephesians 4-6, we are told of the “worthy walk” that we should live in love and gratitude to God for the glorious position we have received.

II. In Ephesians 4:17-32, we learned of the need to put off the old humanity like dirty clothes, and instead to put on the new humanity and act like Christ. We saw many examples of things we should put off, and other things we should put on in their place.

III. Our duty in response to all God has done for us in Christ is to walk worthy of Him.

IV. Ephesians 5:1. Imitation in a child is endearing! God wants His beloved children to imitate Him in the same way. Greek for imitators = *mimetes*, from which we get our English word “mimic.” God wants us to mimic Him!

V. Walk in love. First of three specific ways in which we are to “walk” (live our lifestyle, order our behavior.)

- A. Ephesians 3:2. Christ and His love is our example. He loved us so much He gave Himself up for us! Our worthy response to this is to give up our own behavior to His ways and His control.
- B. Christ was a fragrant odor of an offering and a sacrifice to God. A life lived in love is our fragrant odor before God.
- C. Ephesians 5:3. These are behaviors that do not come from love. This goes back to the idea from chapter 4 of “put off and put on.” We are to put on love in verse 2, and put off all these things here.
  1. Fornication. Fornication is sex for the purpose of personal gain, rather than as an outgrowth of marital love and commitment. The world calls this “love,” but it is really selfishness.
  2. Every kind of impurity. Our world is full of many kinds of impure things, but we should avoid them all.
  3. Covetousness. This is not simply wanting what we do not have, such as when we want something that we see in an advertisement. To covet is to want what we have no right to have. It is not just wanting a beautiful wife like that man has, but rather it is wanting that man’s wife. It is not just wanting a nice house like that person has, but it is wanting that person’s house. And so forth.
  4. There should not be a hint of these among us, because we are set apart to God.
  5. Verse 4. Put off obscenity in speech or behavior. Stupid speaking or joking should also be avoided. This is not talking about humor in general, but inappropriate humor. Many sink to where they cannot find a clean joke funny.
  6. Put on thanksgiving. Thankfulness is our substitute for corrupt humor.
- D. Ephesians 5:5. Four things which can bar you from inheritance in the kingdom of God.
  1. A fornicator is one who has illicit or inappropriate sexual relationships rather than in the context of marriage between members of the opposite sex. It can also have to do with a visitor of or worker with prostitutes.
  2. Impure in thought and life. True of so many today! We should be given to purity.
  3. Covetous. Wants what belongs to someone else which he has no right to have.
  4. Idolater. One who holds other things in the place that should belong to God alone.

E. No allotment in the kingdom of Christ, even the kingdom of God.

1. To have an inheritance is to have a portion. God is never going to die to leave us an “inheritance,” but we do have a portion or allotment with Him.
2. The kingdom of God is God’s government. How can this be true, when David was a fornicator and coveted another man’s wife, yet he will be a prince in the kingdom of God? Ezekiel 34:24; 37:25.
3. Consider the men who hold government office today. They are often very much given to these things. This will not be so for the rulers in God’s government! The point is not so much what they were like in this life. David may have done some of these things in this life, but he will not do such things when he rules in God’s government. Psalm 101.
4. This is not a “how to” passage of how to get into the kingdom of God, as if avoiding these four things is how to get saved. Instead, we are being given the example of those who have a place in the kingdom of God. If those in God’s government will not be like this, we should not be either.

VI. Conclusion: The worthy walk is the response Christ looks for after all He has done for us. We should imitate and mimic Him. He wishes us to walk in love. We should put off behavior that do not come from love, and be thankful. We know that those who will inherit the kingdom of God will not act this way. We, then, should act appropriately for believers. We should walk in love as Christ would have us to live.