

Devotional Guide
Walk in Love
Ephesians 5:1 – 8

Monday

Psalm 1:1; Ephesians 2:6; 4:1; 5:2, 8, 15; Ephesians 6:13 - 14

In Ephesians, Paul uses an imagery borrowed from Psalm 1: sitting, walking, and standing. In Ephesians 2:6 we learn that we are seated in the heavenly places with Christ; this is the great truth of “positional” salvation, the greatest possible assurance of our salvation, and encouragement regarding our dignity in God’s sight. In Ephesians 6:13 – 14 we are told to put on the whole armor of God and stand firm. In Ephesians 4:1 we are exhorted to walk worthy of our calling. In Ephesians 5 we are exhorted regarding the Christian walk: to walk in love, to walk in the light, and to walk as wise; and for each imperative, instructed how to do it, what not to do, and why.

Think About It: Compare and contrast the “sit, walk, and stand” of Psalm 1:1 with the “sit, walk, and stand” of Ephesians. Where am I sitting? How am I walking? Where am I taking my stand?

Prayer: That I might walk worthy of my calling as a Christian.

Tuesday

Ephesians 5:1; Matthew 5:48; Luke 6:36; Ephesians 4:32; 1 Peter 1:16

The overarching imperative that leads to the instructions regarding our Christian walk is “be imitators of God.”

Think About It: According to the Scripture references for to do, in what ways am I to imitate God? What hope is there that I might be even slightly successful at imitating God? What motive for imitating God is suggested in Ephesians 5:1?

Prayer: Praise God that I am His beloved child.

Wednesday

Ephesians 5:2; Genesis 8:21; Philippians 2:5 - 8

The first imperative regarding the Christian walk in Ephesians 5 is that we are to walk in love. The measure of this love is how Christ loved us, and gave Himself as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. The significance of the “fragrant” offering is that is an offering which God finds pleasing and acceptable and because of which God views man favorably and blesses man.

Think About It: What did Christ’s loving sacrifice for us involve, according Philippians 2:5 – 8? What did Christ give up for us? What did He endure for us? If I am to walk in love as Christ did, what implication does Philippians 2:5 – 8 have for my attitudes and behavior?

Prayer: Lord, help me to follow your example of humility and obedience.

Thursday

Ephesians 5:2; John 13:34; 14:15; 15:9 – 12 ; Romans 8:37; 2 Corinthians 2:14 – 15

The exhortation to walk in love reiterates Jesus’ commands John 13:34 and John’s command in 1 John 3:16, 18. We are to love as Christ loved. This imperative is repeated in Ephesians 5:25.

Think About It: How did God demonstrate His love for me (Romans 5:8)? How does Christ demonstrate His love for me (John 15:13 – 14)? How am I to demonstrate love in action to God and to others?

Prayer: Lord, may my love be demonstrated in action.

Friday

Ephesians 5:3 – 7; Acts 15:20, 29; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 6:9 – 11; Matthew 12:34 - 36

Walking in love requires that the Christian not engage in sexual immorality and impurity. Immoral sexuality was part of pagan worship, and was socially acceptable in the pagan world. The Christian walk required separation from those practices (Acts 15:20, 29; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 6:9 – 11).

Think About It: In what way is our present world similar to the New Testament era world regarding its attitudes on immorality? Why is covetousness, or greed, equated with idolatry in Ephesians 5:5? Based on what Jesus taught in Matthew 12:34 – 36, of what does coarse jesting and bad language reveal about a person’s spiritual condition?

Prayer: Lord, by your grace help me to be separated from the corruption of this world.

Saturday

Ephesians 5:6 - 7; Colossians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 1:20 – 25;
2 Corinthians 6:14

Walking in love requires that the Christian not be deceived by empty words, and not become partners with those who practice immorality, worship the idol of gain, are filthy talkers, and teach and are deceived by deceitful philosophy.

Think About It: Sinful practices and attitudes have seemingly sophisticated apologists. What are some examples of worldly philosophies that justify corrupt behavior? What are some of the ways that I might be invited into a partnership with those who practice immorality?

Prayer: Lord, grant me the discernment to recognize deceitful philosophy, and the wisdom to avoid partnering with evil.

Sunday

Ephesians 5:3 – 8

Paul not only exhorts us not to engage in immorality, he provides us with good reasons not to.

Think About It: What are some of the reasons given in Ephesians 5:3 – 8 for the Christian to avoid immoral behavior?

Prayer: Lord, help me to walk in love, in a manner worthy of my inheritance.