

Ephesians - Identity  
Walking with God - Part 11  
10/15/2023

*Eph. 5:1-2, 8, 15-17 (ESV) Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ... for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

To Walk with God:

1st) Choose your EXAMPLES.

*Eph. 5:1 (ESV) Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.*

*Phil. 3:17 (GWT) Brothers and sisters, imitate me, and pay attention to those who live by the example we have given you.*

*1 Cor. 11:1 (GWT) Imitate me as I imitate Christ.*

- The first three chapters are focused on the Christians identity in Christ.
- He is encouraging people to live in light of this by imitating God.
- We are to imitate the living Christ within us.

*Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

- The goal of the enemy is to stain your self image

*Brennan Manning - The one regret I have in my life is the hours I've wasted in self-condemnation, low self-esteem, and self-hatred, which is all ego-based by the way.*

- Grace before truth

*Romans 2:4 (GWT) Do you have contempt for God, who is very kind to you, puts up with you, and deals patiently with you? Don't you realize that it is God's kindness that is trying to lead you to him and change the way you think and act?*

*(ESV) Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*

2nd) Choose your **FOCUS**.

*Eph. 5:2 (ESV) And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

- Most people fail because of broken focus

*Joshua 1:7 (ESV) Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success<sup>[a]</sup> wherever you go.*

*Phil. 3:14 (ESV) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

*Deut. 6: 5(ESV) “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.[a] 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*

*1 John 4:19 (PHP) Yes, we love him because he first loved us.*

- My focus is on what Jesus did and not what I do

To Walk with God:

3rd) Choose What **FITS**.

*Eph. 5:3 (ESV) But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.*

- It's not that God is going to get you
- It's not that a lightning bolt is going to come out of heaven after you
- It's this behavior doesn't fit
- It's improper and it's not who you are
- It's who they are, not who you are
- Because you're a saint

*Eph. 5:4 (ESV) Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.*

*Eph. 5:5 (ESV) For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.*

*Eph. 1:11 (ESV) In him we have obtained an inheritance,*

*Eph. 5:6-7 (ESV) Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them;*

- Deception and Sons of disobedience
- Do not become partners with them
- He says you were but now you are – so live like it.

To Walk with God:

4th) Choose **WISDOM**.

*Eph. 5:15-16 (ESV) Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.*

- Wisdom is the ability to recognize difference

*Proverbs 2:2 (ESV) making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;*

*Proverbs 4:7 (HCSB) Wisdom is supreme—so get wisdom. And whatever else you get, get understanding.*

*James 1:5 (ESV) If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*

- The days are evil

*Eph. 5:17 (ESV) Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

How to best use your time:

A) Make and keep a daily **APPOINTMENT** with God

B) Arm yourself with **SCRIPTURE**

- The wisdom of God is the Word of God

C) Develop **DISCIPLINE**