

**MADE NEW: A New Walk!**  
**Ephesians 5:1-21**

**INTRODUCTION:**

We do want to say a special welcome to those of you that are guests with us this morning. We are so glad that you are here. My name is Chris Wigley, I'm one of the pastors here at Trinity. If you are a guest, we'd love to get to connect with. You can provide information to us by texting the keyword, TBCMP, which stands for Trinity Baptist Church Mount Pleasant, to the number 94-000. When you send that keyword, a link will be sent back to you and that will take you to a form that is less 30 seconds to fill out. When you click "submit," it notifies me, and I always look forward to following up with our guests each week.

If text messaging isn't your thing, please swing by our information center located in the fellowship area, right out these doors in the lobby. We have a gift there for you just as a way of saying thank you for being our guest today. Again, we are thrilled you have chosen to worship with us today.

**SERIES OVERVIEW:**

We are approaching the end to our teaching series we've been in throughout this summer. We've called this series, Made New. We are studying the New Testament book of Ephesians and talking about how we are made new in Christ. We have a new identity in Christ, a new focus, we have new life, we belong to a new body of believers, and that we discover a new plan in Christ, we pray with a new and great expectation, we have a new kind of unity. Last week Paul Newby, our missionary to Honduras, did an awesome job teaching us about a new relationship. Today we are going to look briefly at what Paul calls a new walk.

The reason I say look briefly is because today is a special day in the life of our church. Following our teaching time, we are going to be installing two new elders as leaders in our church. God has brought us two incredible men that are gifted leaders and have pastor hearts in Jeremy Thomas and Kyle Shovan. So, we are looking forward to that in just a moment.

But we are going to work our way through Ephesians, chapter 5, verses 1-21. So, I want to invite you to grab your bibles and turn with me there as we study this passage together.

**OPENING ILLUSTRATION: Broken Toe**

When I was in high school, a freshman I think, I went with some friends to Hurricane Harbor. Any of you familiar with Hurricane Harbor in Arlington? Used to be called Wet N Wild back in the day. It is a water park.

There was this one ride, I can't remember the name of it, but you would carry your raft, which weighed 50 pounds, up to the top. They would load you and your slide up, the bottom would angle down, and you would fly down the slide and then shoot across the pool at the bottom. Fun ride.

Well, the way we would carry our raft up to the top was to put it on top of our heads. When I say it weighed 50 pounds, that's no exaggeration. It was heavy. So, I had my raft on top of my head, walking up to the end of the line. As I started to slow my roll, because I was approaching the end of the line, my friend was behind me and had no clue he was reaching the end of the line. I think he was talking or something. Not paying attention. So, he hits my raft with his raft and before I knew it, my raft was heading down toward my feet at warp speed. A 50 pound raft reaching terminal velocity landed on my right foot.

Immediately, there was a massive bump on top of one of my toes. It was somewhat painful and didn't look right. When I picked up my foot, that one toe hung down and I couldn't move it.

So, we decided to go to the medical center there at the park and they said they thought it was just a broken blood vessel. Come to find out later, my toe was broken. I struggled to walk. Who knew the toe next to your pinky toe is important? So, I limped along the rest of the day.

Well, I had a baseball game that evening so we called the trainer to see what he would suggest. He encouraged me to wear high top cleats just play. So that's what I did. When I came to bat, I limped into the batter's box. There were two outs and I hit the ball pretty good. So, I stumbled down toward first base and stretched a double into a single. Still with two outs, and seeing me limp my way to first, my first base coach said, "Good hit, Chris. There are two outs, hobble on anything."

I was stumbling in my ability to walk because something was broken in my foot. That broken toe affected the way I walked. It wasn't until I corrected the broken toe that I was back to walking without hindrance.

Well, the Christian life is often referred to as a walk. That's because, here in Chapter 5 of Ephesians, Paul likens life with Christ as a walk with Christ. And he outlines ways to not be hindered in our walk. In fact, Paul gives us 4 ways to walk in Christ.

### **BACKGROUND:**

By way of review, Ephesians can be broken into two parts: doctrinal foundational teaching, and then practical living. We have a new identity in Christ, that's doctrine, and that results in a new way of living, that's practice. Having been made new, given a new identity in Christ, having put on the new self, we have the ability to walk in a new strength, a new way.

As I was studying this passage this week, I kept hearing Aerosmith play in my head. "Walk this way! Talk this way!" Anyway, I digress. Paul says to walk in love, in purity, in light, and in The Spirit. That will serve as our outline this morning as we work our way through this passage.

### **MESSAGE:**

Let's begin by looking at Paul's urging to...

#### **1) Walk in Love.**

Let's look at verses 1 and 2 of Chapter 5. You read along in your copy of God's Word. ***1Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*** A couple of things I want to point out for us in these verses.

First, Paul says we are to be imitators of God. This is a common command in the Bible. In Leviticus 19, the Israelites were commanded to be holy because God is holy. They were taught that their actions are determined by God's character, who He is.<sup>i</sup> Jesus taught, in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:43-48, that His disciples are to be perfect as their heavenly Father is perfect. Paul carries this same urging in other letters he writes to imitate him as he imitates Christ. In other words, we need to realize that we are in Christ, made new, a part of God's family, and as a result are to display the characteristics of the family. We are to be imitators of God and by so doing, we walk in love.<sup>iii</sup>

Now, I don't know about you, but this seems to be an impossibility. Right? It would be like saying, "Hey listen, we are going to go play football at the park. I need you to be on my team. You're going to be the quarterback, and I need you

to play just like Tom Brady."<sup>iv</sup> Whether we like it or not, Tom Brady is the quarterback GOAT. He's proved it. But my point is that none of us can go out there and play like Tom Brady. I love you, but that's not going to happen.

We can read this and say, "Gosh, being an imitator of God is an impossibility, therefore this must be hyperbole." But Paul says, "Therefore." In other words, in light of being made new, having put on the new self (Chapter 4, verse 24), empowered by the Holy Spirit, be imitators of God. So, in a way, saying that being an imitator of God is an impossibility is correct. That's true apart from the Holy Spirit. But because of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in us, at the moment of our salvation, having put on the new self, we have access to the power to work in and through us that produces in us that which is holy and righteous.

You and I are never more like God than when we walk in love. The Bible says that God **IS** love. God demonstrated His love in Christ's death in our place and for our benefit. And love here in this passage is defined by Christ's love for us, a sacrificial love on the cross.

We are to walk in the same kind of love. Secondly, we are to...

#### **2) Walk in Purity.**

Our new walk in Christ calls us to a stark contrast from the ways of our culture and world. The city of Ephesus, looked much like our society today. Like what Paul told the first century Ephesian Christians that when the world is marked by moral pollution, we are to be marked by moral purity.<sup>v</sup> We are to walk in purity.

Verses 3-7. ***3But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. 4Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. 5For 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. 6Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7Therefore do not become partners with them.***

Paul makes mention here of three specific sins: sexual immorality, greed, and crude speech. Now, this is not intended to be an exhaustive list of sins that Christians are to avoid. Probably the reason Paul points out these three is because they were the most prevalent in first century Ephesus.<sup>vi</sup> Paul's urging

is that there should not even be a hint of these things, verse 3, because they are not fitting for those who belong to Christ. In other words, those that belong to Christ are to reflect differently than a culture marked by moral pollution.

Now, I want to briefly discuss each of the sins Paul lists. First, he calls sexual immorality a sin. The word here is the Greek word, *porneia*, where we get our word, pornography.<sup>vii</sup> It's a broad word referring to any sexual sin.<sup>viii</sup> I think it is important to be clear here. Sexual sin is defined in the Scriptures as anything outside of God's design for sex, which is between a man and a woman in a covenant relationship of marriage. Paul says, the culture has so distorted, polluted, God's design for sex and as believers in Christ we are to reclaim and uphold the profound union of God's design. We are to walk in purity.

Secondly, Paul says we are to not practice covetousness. The word here in the original language means to, "desire for advantage."<sup>ix</sup> That is greed. The desire to have more. It is to have a desire for things that take the place of God. It is, therefore, idolatry Paul says. And this kind of sin is a root type of sin. The hunger to satisfy ourselves with things other than The Lord is a slippery slope that leads to all other kinds of compromises. This is why we walk in purity.

Thirdly, Paul says, verse 4, *"Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place."* This is the sin of speech. The way we talk can be destructive. James says, *"the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness."* But of the things Paul has named, why is speech important to reflect purity? Well, Jesus said in Matthew 12:34, He's speaking to the Pharisees, hypocrites, He says, *"<sup>34</sup>You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."* So, it's a heart issue. So, we have sexual immorality, greed, and crude speech.

Then in verse 5, Paul gives a strong warning why it is important to walk in purity. He says, *"<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."* In other words, these are things that will be judged.

Now, I know this can make us nervous and maybe cause us to feel a little awkward.<sup>x</sup> I mean Jesus said that to look lustfully upon someone is to commit adultery in your heart. In a way we are all lumped in here. Right?!

Please understand, Paul is not trying to use scare tactics here, but rather points out the fact that we will have to give an account. Salvation in Christ is secure, but we who are saved will still give an account of how we lived. So, Paul says to be careful. Walk in purity. It's a big deal, important.

But again, let's talk about walking. When we walk, don't we sometimes stumble, trip? I don't think Paul is saying that you can't be a Christian and still struggle with sin. Because if that is the case then we are all in trouble. But there is a difference between struggling and accepting.<sup>xi</sup> Struggling means to trip and acceptance means to wallow. Wallowing is not walking. You see the difference.

So, let me say this at this point. If you are feeling a little bit of conviction here, you're thinking the sexual immorality stuff, the greed stuff, the language stuff, paired with the no inheritance talk and you're just convicted. Can I say that's a great thing. The Holy Spirit is working. I would worry if you weren't convicted. But let me tell you what the conviction of the Holy Spirit does. The conviction will allow us to feel the sting. But conviction doesn't leave us there. The Holy Spirit picks us up, reminds us that we are forgiven, and pushes us to resume walking with The Lord. So, if that's where you are, then great! Allow The Lord to dust you off and get you going again.

We are to walk in love and in purity. Thirdly, we are to...

### 3) Walk in Light.

Paul contrasts the sinful behavior, darkness, with that of walking confidently in who we are in Christ, in the light. Read with me verses 8-14. *<sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light** <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."* What does it mean to walk in light?

The Christian life is a call to be who God says we are.<sup>xii</sup> We are children of light. We take Him at His Word and we walk in that identity, not in our sinful, old self. We allow The Holy Spirit to illuminate areas in our lives, expose areas of our

lives, that need work and then we follow Him in His ways. And here is the kicker, we need to leave the light on so as to expel the darkness from us.

I need to move quickly. We are to walk in love, walk in purity, walk in light. Fourthly, we are to...

#### 4) Walk in The Spirit.

Look at verses 15 through 21. <sup>15</sup>*Look carefully then how you walk, **not as unwise but as wise**, <sup>16</sup>*making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but **be filled with the Spirit**, <sup>19</sup>*addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup>**giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ**, <sup>21</sup>*submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.****

Paul says that you can tell when someone is walking in The Spirit. 3 ways you can tell. They are wise, Spirit-filled, and grateful.

Those that are wise are the ones that are making the best use of time Paul says. Because the wise understand the days are evil. And the wise understand that God has a purpose and a plan for their lives. And that God's will is to leverage their lives for the Kingdom. James says, *yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.* What will people say about how we used the little time we have been given? What do we do with our time? Believer, life is too short to not be walking in the Spirit, and the days are far too evil.

But also, Paul says that those that walk by The Spirit are Spirit-filled. It's obvious. I'm not talking about sensationalism. I'm talking about an undeniable joy. Paul says that they are the ones that address one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in their heart.

Now let me tell you what this is not. This is not going around singing to each other constantly. "How are you today..." No! It's those people who have Jesus as the soundtrack of their lives.<sup>xiii</sup> You know, when tragedy hits and they start to feel despair but instead they sing the song of hope. That's the Holy Spirit! It's the people that when they begin feeling fearful, they sing the tune that God's got this. What's the soundtrack of your life?

And by the way, notice that Paul says they address one another. That means they live in community with other believers. That's where you get the strength to face the things you face.

So, walking by the Spirit involves wisdom and joy. What else? Gratefulness. Do you know what the antidote to sinful behavior is? Thanksgiving! Let's just take the sins that Paul has mentioned in this passage. When we are thankful to God, boy we recognize the gift He has given us in our spouse and we don't want anything else. When we are grateful for what we have, how God has blessed us, we don't want other stuff. When we are grateful for what The Lord has done for us, we don't feel the need to put others down and let unwholesome talk come out of our mouths. Who can curse when your too busy praising?! When we walk in the Spirit, we make the most of the time, we are joyful in the Lord, and we are grateful for ALL He's done.

Walk in love, walk in purity, walk in light, and walk in The Spirit.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Micah, would you and the team come up and lead us in a time of response? I want to give you an opportunity to experience the walk God has called us to. If you are here today and you do not have a relationship with Jesus, if that sounds foreign to you, we walk to share with you how you can begin a relationship with Jesus.

Our elders will be here at the front ready to receive you this morning. I'm going to pray, we will stand and sing briefly, but let's respond to the goodness of God this morning. [PRAY]

#### **ELDER INSTALLMENT:**

Today is an exciting day in the life of our church. We have the privilege of installing two men as elders in our church. Due to vacancies in our elder body, we felt the need to initiate the process of identifying qualified men to fill those spots. Our Church bylaws outlines the process for us. The process includes prayerfully considering biblical qualifications laid out in 1&2 Timothy and Titus, a completion of an extensive questionnaire regarding salvation experience, calling, doctrinal stances, practical life and character and even situational leadership. The process also entails interviews and reference checks. Two Sunday's ago we presented these two men before you and our church was given an opportunity to object to their qualification to serve as elders. There

were no objections submitted. I want to invite Kyle Shovan and Jeremy Thomas along with their wives to the front of the stage. I also want to invite our elders to come forward and join them as well. I want to, at this time, hand the mic to Jacob Butler to share briefly about the history and biblical rationale that has brought us to this point. [Jacob Butler, Jeff Julian]

We are going to lay hands on these two men and pray over them. In a moment, I'll invite you to, in your seats, reach out your hands toward these men as a show of prayerful support. But this is important because not only does the bible ask us to do such things, but leaders in churches frequently engage in battle with a very real enemy that seeks to thwart the work of The Church. So, I'm going to lead us in a time of commitments. Kyle and Jeremy, I'll ask you to commit to key things and then church family I will be asking you to commit to key things.

So, Kyle and Jeremy, do you commit to faithfully serving as an elder of Trinity Baptist Church? Do you commit to be in constant prayer for the members of this church? Do you commit to seeking The Lord's lead, above your own preferences, for the good of the church? And do you commit to serving this congregation in whatever need they have? If so, state, "I do."

Church Family, do you commit to praying faithfully for Kyle and Jeremy and their families? Do you recognize the spiritual nature of the role of elder and understand there is spiritual warfare associated with it? Do you commit to support them and their families as they serve as elders of our church? If so, state, "We will."

I want to ask Robert Dorsey to read a Scripture of challenge and then have Brian Dyke lead us in our prayer time. [Robert Dorsey, Brian Dyke]

Awesome. I'm going to have Kyle and Jeremy along with their brides to make their way to the lobby area. They will be there for you to visit with them as you feel led. I'm also going to ask Brittany Burns, our Minister of Missions and Mobilization to come and share closing announcements and lead our benediction. [Brittany Burns]

## ENDNOTES:

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<sup>i</sup> Works consulted in preparation for this message: John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Ephesians*, Moody Press: Chicago, 1986; Klyne Snodgrass, *The NIV Application Commentary: Ephesians*, Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1996; Andrew T. Lincoln, *Word Biblical Commentary: Ephesians*, Word Books: Dallas, 1990; Hope Church Las Vegas, various messages in a series titled "Walk This Way," sermons preached at Hope Church Las Vegas, accessed online: [https://hopechurchlv.com/message\\_passages/ephesians/page/2/](https://hopechurchlv.com/message_passages/ephesians/page/2/); Jack Graham, *Much More: A Pure Walk in a Polluted World*, sermon preached at Prestonwood Baptist Church on July 19, 2020, accessed online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyL85QjCMWM>; Michael Youssef, *Discover Your Treasure House: Discover Its Light*, published by Leading The Way, May 19, 2013, accessed online: <https://www.ltw.org/watch/teaching/series/discover-your-treasure-house/part-8>; Michael Gossett, *Ephesians Living in Christ: Walk in Christ*, sermon preached at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, TX, March 20, 2022, accessed online: <https://www.gabc.org/episode/walk-in-christ/>; David LeFlore, January Bible Study: Ephesians 4:17-6:9; Skip Heitzig, *Walk This Way*, message taught at Calvary Church Albuquerque, September 15, 2004, accessed online: <https://calvarynm.church/connectwithskip/teachings/#!/series/237/sermon/3101>; David Marvin, "Getting Lit Up," message preached at Watermark Church, June 12, 2012, accessed online: <https://www.watermark.org/message/2068-getting-lit-up>; J. D. Greear, "Love Incorruptible: Walk This Way," sermon preached at Summit Church, March 12, 2017, accessed online: <https://summitchurch.com/message/walk-this-way>.

<sup>ii</sup> Snodgrass, page 252.

<sup>iii</sup> Example pointed out by Snodgrass.

<sup>iv</sup> Illustration inspired by Michael Gossett. He referenced Michael Jordan.

<sup>v</sup> Line inspired by Jack Graham's introduction.

<sup>vi</sup> Snodgrass points this out.

<sup>vii</sup> Strong's Concordance, 4202, *porneia*.

<sup>viii</sup> Snodgrass, page 268.

<sup>ix</sup> Strong's Concordance, 4124, *pleonexia*.

<sup>x</sup> Quip taken from J. D. Greear.

<sup>xi</sup> Adapted from J.D. Greear.

<sup>xii</sup> Snodgrass, page 271.

<sup>xiii</sup> Inspired by J.D. Greear's sermon.