

## **Walk in Love** *Ephesians 5:1-14*

“I have set eyes on the wall of lofty Babylon on which is a road for chariots, and the statue of Zeus by the Alpheus, and the hanging gardens, and the colossus of the Sun, and the huge labour of the high pyramids, and the vast tomb of Mausolus; **but when I saw the house of Artemis** that mounted to the clouds, those other marvels lost their brilliancy, and I said, ‘Lo, apart from Olympus, the Sun never looked so grand.’”

*Antipater of Sidon*

“The expressive individual is now the sexually expressive individual and education and socialization are to be marked not by the cultivation of traditional sexual interdicts and taboos but rather by the abolition of such and the enabling of pansexual expression even among children.”

**“The task of the Christian is not to whine about the moment in which he or she lives but to understand its problems and respond appropriately to them.”**

*Carl Trueman, The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*

Self-sacrificial Christian love is a living apologetic in a culture reeling from the consequences of sexual sin.

### **I. Walking in Love Flows Out Of Our Identity in Christ.**

*Ephesians 5:1-2*

“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.”

*Ephesians 5:1-2*

- **Christian love is different than this world’s love.**

The child of God isn’t trying to merit or maintain love but to walk in the love that God has already given us in Christ and to discover its depths.

We already are beloved children.

Freedom from sexual sin begins for all of us when we find our worth in the Father’s love.

- **Agape love isn’t trying to get something from others but it is following Christ who gives himself up for others as a fragrant offering to God.**

We sacrifice ourselves in love to please God.

Ephesians 5:2 – “Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering

and sacrifice to God.”

Ephesians 4:19 “They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.”

### **What Are You Going to Give Yourself Up To?**

Exodus 29:18 “and burn the whole ram on the altar. It is a burnt offering to the Lord. It is a **pleasing aroma**, a food offering to the Lord.”

Leviticus 2:9 “And the priest shall take from the grain offering its memorial portion and burn this on the altar, a food offering with a **pleasing aroma** to the Lord.”

This is how we free ourselves from the seductive power of sexual sin:

Remember where your love comes from – you are a beloved child of God.

Remember what your life is for – to be poured out as a pleasing fragrant sacrifice to the Lord who has forgiven you much.

## **II. Walking in Love Means Living Our Lives with Integrity.**

### **Ephesians 5:3-8**

- Don't Be Cavalier  
“But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named Among You, as is Proper among the Saints.” Ephesians 5:3
- Don't Be Crude (But Give Thanks)  
“Let there be no filthiness nor foolish Talk nor crude Joking, which are out of Place, but instead let there be Thanksgiving.” (Eph. 5:4)
- Don't Be Confused  
“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. 5:5)
- Don't Be Conned  
“Let no one Deceive You with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the Sons of Disobedience.”  
(Eph. 5:6)

“For the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth... Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and **worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen!”  
Romans 1:18,24,25

- Don't Be Complicit

“Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness but now you are light in the Lord.”  
(Eph. 5:7)

### **III. Walking in Love is Living with Gospel Clarity.**

*Ephesians 5:9-14*

- **Live Out Your New Identity: You are Light**

“For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:8)

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Sexual fidelity is one of those areas where our conversion can be seen as a real miracle of God and offers hope to others.

- **Live Out Your New Heart's Passion – to please God.**

“Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:8-10)

The motivation for sexual fidelity is not deprivation but delight. The pursuit is not denying pleasure but “pure” pleasure.

- **Live with Gospel Luminosity: Shine Brightly**

“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, ‘Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’” (Eph. 5:11-14)

“You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:13-16

Sexual Fidelity is A Powerful Means of Pointing People to Christ Who Poured Out Himself to Forgive us and to Free Us From all Our sin.

It is in This that People Will Experience Christ Shining His Face Upon them in Unconditional Love.