



Life Group Study Notes

"The Proclamation: Walking"

Sr. Ps. James Lowe - December 4, 2016

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Why do you think young children imitate their parents?
- What criteria do you use to select the kind of TV shows or movies that you allow yourself (or your children) to watch?
- Who is an example to you in right living?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Walking In Love And Good Works

Ephesians 2:10 ESV *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

- God has designed good works for each us that are suited for us. Some are specifically designed to match our gifts, interests, and abilities. Others are simply good works that any of us can do. All of us are called to do something. This is why it is important to follow God's call to do our work as a vocation unto him, and not merely as a job or set of duties, for even our work can be filled with good works.

Ephesians 5:1-2 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.*

- Our lives, including our good works, are to be infused with love: love for God and love for people, especially God's church. God loves people who have rebelled against him and have grieved him. We are the recipients of his love. Having received his love, we are to remember his love at all times and so be motivated to love others. This love for others is to be put into action with good works.

Walking In Darkness

Ephesians 5:3-7 ESV *But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. 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. 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...*

- We are called to imitate God, not the world. God is holy and morally pure. We are not to walk in the ways of sinful society. If we are believers in Jesus, then we are to follow him. We are to leave spiritual and moral darkness. If we don't, we have no inheritance or reward from God.

Walking In Light

Ephesians 5:8-14 ESV *[F]or at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. 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. 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 the 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."*

- We are called to live so that we please God by imitating him. We are to grow in learning what pleases him. When we learn that something in our lives doesn't please God, we are not to hide it, but we are to be honest about it and transparent with those who walk with us in pursuit of God. We are to seek help from them to grow in our salvation.
- Furthermore, we are called to expose sin. In love we are to speak to our brother or sister about sin that is excused and allowed as a lifestyle. We are to help them turn from it and overcome it. In love we are to speak to those apart from God, and point them to the cross of Jesus, who died for them to atone for their sins and to reconcile them back into relationship with God.

Walking In Wisdom

Ephesians 5:15-21 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. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

- We are called to do more than abstain from evil. We are called to be wise and make the best use of our time, since our time to please God and do his works in this life is relatively short. We can do this best by being regularly filled with God's Spirit, which comes about through being thankful to God for every good thing and by singing from joy to the Lord for his generous salvation.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related point for discussion.

- How can we be alert to the sinful values and ways of the world around us and not participate in them, but do this without acting weird or paranoid?
- Think about your actions this past week. Is there anything that needs to change for you to be a better imitator of Christ? What changes do you need to make?
- What kind of reputation do you have among your coworkers or classmate? Is that reputation congruent with your actual spiritual and moral life?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict us of anything that displeases him.
- Pray for wisdom to make the right choices and conduct yourself in a way worthy of a child of God.
- Thank God our Father for making us children of light.