

4. Why are idolatry and sensuality, or greed and immorality, so often linked together in the Bible?

5. Which verses of our text warn about rationalizing sinful lusts and immorality?

Do you think this occurs among people in the church? How are we to relate with people who profess to have a relationship with Jesus but who are living in immorality? (See 1 Corinthians 5:9-11.)

6. Why must a loving God be a judging God?

7. Pray for purity, holiness, and love among the members of Morning Star.

II. A. Own.  
III. A. Tear down, cheapen.



## Lesson 18: Walking in Love

Pastor Scott Nelson | Ephesians 5:1-6 | May 2-3, 2009

Our former manner of life (Ephesians 4:22) was characterized by a selfish inclination to satisfy every desire of our hearts no matter where it led or whom it hurt. Now that we have put on the new self “which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth” (Ephesians 4:24), we are called to live differently. Now we are called to walk (or live) worthy of the calling with which we have been called—in unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-16). Now we are called to walk not as the Gentiles or pagans—but rather, we are called to walk in purity and holiness (Ephesians 4:17-32). In our present lesson, Paul continues to use the metaphor of “walking” to describe the Christian life, and he informs us that walking in love bears no resemblance to the former life which was characterized by walking according to the lusts of the flesh.

I. What Does It Mean to Walk in Love? (Ephesians 5:1-2)

A. The loving walk begins with the new birth (“as beloved children” imitate your heavenly Father).

B. The loving walk is based on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

II. Love's Conduct (Ephesians 4:25-32; 5:3).

- A. Love, the antithesis of self-seeking. Love does not seek its \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Love is not to be confused with the satisfaction of sinful desires.
  - 1. Immorality—(*porneia*): a general term here for all kinds of sexual sin such as fornication, pornography, adultery, homosexuality, promiscuity, pedophilia etc.
  - 2. Impurity and greed.

III. Love's Conversation (Ephesians 5:4).

- A. Obscenity and vulgarity are unbecoming to the believer. Loving conversation does not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ the sexual relationship; loving conversation celebrates and ennobles the sexual relationship.
- B. Giving of thanks (for the gift of sex?).

IV. Love's Consequences (Ephesians 5:5-6).

- A. Love of anything or anyone more than God leads to loss of inheritance.
- B. The wrath of God is evidence of His love.



QUESTIONS *for study, reflection, discussion, and growth*

1. Read Ephesians 5:1-6, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, and Galatians 5:13-25.
2. How is it even possible to be an imitator of God?

How do we grow in the family likeness?

What hinders you most in your quest to imitate God?

3. Do you know people who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ who are living in immorality? If this immorality is a pattern of life for them, what does the Scripture say regarding their future?