

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

TITLE: Program 48 – Walk In Love By Keeping His Commandments

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Covet, covet, covet; you see it, you want it, you go after it. Then you see something else and you want it and go after it. Beloved, is your life just filled with heaping up possession? Do you know what that’s called? It’s called idolatry and what about immorality? You see him, you see her, you desire this sexually, you go after it. What is that called? Beloved, that is called sin. We’re gonna talk about it today.

PART ONE

When you look at the lifestyle of many, many people what you see, Beloved, is that it’s a lifestyle of coveting. The problem is that we don’t realize that God says that coveting is equal to idolatry and it’s equal to greed and if greed is my lifestyle then I’m in trouble with God. And it’s even greed that

leads us into immorality. Well we’ve come to that important portion of Ephesians where it’s talking about our walk. In Ephesians chapter 4 He’s telling us [I want you now to walk worthy of the calling] that you have in Christ Jesus. (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 4:1b) And we pick up that word “walk” as we go through. [We’re not to walk as the Gentiles walk in the futility, in the emptiness of their mind.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 4:17b) Rather we are to [walk in love.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 5:2) We are to walk in light and not in darkness.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 5:8) We are to walk by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are to walk as wise men and women and this is what we want to look at today. We want to look at Ephesians chapter 5. Ephesians chapter 5 the first 2 verses really belong to the content of Ephesians chapter 4. And yet in Ephesians chapter 5, as he’s talking to us about our behavior and how we are to respond to others he tells us that we are to [walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, as a sacrifice as a sweet aroma in the nostrils of God, as a sweet fragrance] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 5:2) my desire for you is that you and I will walk in a way that is pleasing to God. In 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 9 Paul says, “[I have as my ambition, whether in this body or out of this body to be pleasing to God.]” (PARAPHRASE, 2 Corinthians 5:9) Now is your ambition to be pleasing to God or is your ambition to get more and more and more and more just to heap up treasures? Because if your ambition is to heap up treasures, Beloved, it is going to keep you from being pleasing to God and I’m telling you when everything is over and you leave those possessions behind and you stand before Him, only one thing is going to matter at that point. We think that these possessions are going to last forever. We think that this lifetime if forever but it’s not and the thing that’s going to matter when you see Jesus face to face is have you been pleasing to Him. And as Jesus was pleasing to Him and as Jesus walked in love so you and I also are to walk in love. Well, turn in your Bible or turn in your observation worksheets if you’ve downloaded the study guide on Ephesians and that is

free and you can get it still today by going to preceptsforlife.com, preceptsforlife.com. We want you to study along with us. Well, we want you to mark the verb “walk” and what I do is I have just a little drawing where I bring two lines down and then I put feet on them and put that over “walk.” In Ephesians chapter 5, verse 1, **“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.” (Ephesians 5:1)** Now you know why I call you “Beloved” don’t you because God uses it all the time and He inspires Paul to write and use “beloved” and Jude to write **“beloved” (Jude 1)** and Peter to write **“beloved.” (2 Peter 1:17)** So just know this. That you are beloved children but you better behave beloved children should behave. He says, **“And walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.” (Ephesians 5:2)** We’ve looked at this forgiveness but now I want us to look at walking in love but I don’t want to stop here. I want to read to you the next several verses in Ephesians because you need to see the contrast. You need to see that he’s saying to you [walk in love as Christ loved us and as Christ gave Himself up as a sacrifice for us as a sweet aroma] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 5:2) before God and He’s our example but then listen to verse 3 cause the contrast here is kind of funny at first. It says, **“But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty....” (Ephesians 5:3-5a)** In other words you know this. This is an absolute truth. **“...You know [this] with certainty...,”** so this is something you need to underline. He says, **“...that no immoral or impure person...,”** now watch this, **“...or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and [of] God.” (Ephesians 5:5)** What has he just said? You are to walk in love as Christ walked in love. You are not to allow immorality or impurity in your life or greed in your life. There’s not to be any filthy talk. There’s not to be any

silly talk. There's not to be any course jesting and then he says because I want you to know with a certainty. Know with a certainty and I want you to see it. **"...That no immoral or impure person..."** and we're gonna talk about that later, **"...or covetous man, who is an idolater..."** (Ephesians 5:b) Do you know what he did? He just married coveting with idolatry and if you look at our society, the culture is all about having things. The culture is all about getting more and more and more for our selves and we just pile it up and we pile it up and we pile it up. The other day I was sitting and I was talking to some friends of ours and I was saying you know, how many kids today expect to move out, get married and live in a home equal to their parents? When their parents have worked all these years to get that kind of a home and yet our children are given so much they don't have to earn their money. They don't have to earn their first car. They're just given more and more and more and more. So really we are a society that sees and wants. That's what the whole advertising premise is. You see it; you want it. And sometimes in Christian circles is you hear it and you want it. You hear that you can be prosperous. You hear that you can have a big home. You can have great cars. You can hear that you can have great clothes. You can hear that you can have all these possessions because you're a child of the King so you might as well get it. But listen to what God is saying. He's saying, "No. I'm calling you to walk in love." And that love is a sacrificial love and I want you to understand that if you walk in love as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, if you walk in love towards other people and you walk in love towards God then it's going to keep you from immorality. It's going to keep you from impurity. It is going to keep you from greed. He wants you to understand that if you are truly a child of God, Beloved, there is a change in your character and there is a change in your behavior. Let's go back and let's look at this walking in love for a few minutes and then what we'll do is we'll move on and we will look at the coveting, at the idolatry, at the immorality. He says in verse 2, **"...Walk in love, just as Christ...loved you..."**

(Ephesians 5:2a) We know from John 3:16 that “...God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, [so]that whosoever [would] believes in Him [would] not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16, KJV) So God loved you so much that He gave His Son as a sacrifice for your sins so that you wouldn’t perish. That’s the sacrificial love of God. I want you to get the sacrificial nature of this and then we look at the fact that Jesus loved us. And I want us to go to John chapter 15 and I want us to see [the love of Jesus because this is the love that you and I are to imitate.] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 5:1) And you and I can imitate it if Christ is in us because if Christ is in us the Holy Spirit’s in us and the fruit of the Spirit is love. So in John 15, verse 9 Jesus says, “**Just as the Father has loved Me....**” (John 15:9a) The Father loves you, the Father loved the Son. He says, “**...I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love....**” (John 15:9b-10a) Now when you stop and you think of the Ten Commandments, just stop and think about those two tables of stone where God came down and wrote on those two tablets of stone the Ten Commandments. What’s the first commandment? “**You shall have no other gods before Me.**” (Exodus 20:3) So if you have no other gods before Him then you love God supremely. Also you shall not covet. [You shall not covet another person’s possessions. You shall not covet another person’s house, another person’s wife, another person’s husband.] (PARAPHRASE, Deuteronomy 5:21) You’re not to do that. “**If you love Me...,**” Jesus says, “**...you will keep My commandments.**” (John 14:15) He says, “[And]...you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.” (John 15:10 b) Verse 12, “**This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.**” (John 15:12-13) So when he’s saying walk in love just as Jesus walked in love go back to Ephesians and let’s look at it again cause I want you to see it. It says, “**...Walk in love,**

just as [Jesus] loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God....” (Ephesians 5:2) So He says, **“Greater love has no one than [to] lay down his life for [another.]” (John 15:13)** That’s how much you are loved. The question is will you love as Christ loved? Will you lay down your life, will you lay down your possessions, will you lay down your desires because you love God and you want to walk in love? We’ll talk about it right after this announcement.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. I wanta thank you so very, very much for studying with me and I want you to know that I count it such a privilege and such an honor to be able to open the Word of God with you and take you through His precepts for life. Because through His precepts we get understanding and I love it that you’re studying along with me. You know in Psalm 119, verse 102 it says, **“I have not turned aside from Your [commandments,] for You Yourself have taught me.” (Psalm 119:102)** I love that verse because that’s what this program is all about. It’s about providing you with the means and the know how to study God’s Word, to observe the text, to understand what it says, what it means and then how you’re to live in the light of it. So that God Himself teaches you. You don’t believe it just cause you heard it but you believe it because you’ve opened the Book because you’ve studied it yourself and you understand. The other day as I was sitting having my quiet time I went to John chapter 14 and I was just so awed with this verse. And I thought God, this is what I want to say to You. It’s Jesus and He’s speaking and in verse 31, chapter 14:31 He says, **“...so that the world may know that I love the Father....” (John 14:31a)** He said I want the world to know that I love the Father. **“...I do exactly as the Father commanded Me.” (John 14:31b)** I do exactly as the Father commanded

Me. And then He turned to them and this is what He said. He said, “...**Get up, [and] let us go from here.**” (John 14:31c) Where were they? They were in the upper room. They were reclining. Remember in those days that when they ate a meal they reclined on cushions and it was a low table in the shape of a U and He said, “**Get up, [and] let us go from here.**” (John 14:31c) Where was He headed? He was headed to the Garden of Gethsemane, the oil press, where He would say to God, “...**Not My will, but Thine be done.**” (Luke 22:42b, KJV) Now you and I are called to walk in love and if we walk in love I’m to walk in love to other people and I am to walk in love to God. And when I walk in love to God I am really walking in love towards others and all that love involves a sacrifice of me. So He says, “...**Walk in love, just as Christ also loved [us] and gave Himself up for us....**” (Ephesians 5:2a) So it’s not a matter of greed and a matter of getting but rather it is a matter of giving. And so I would just say that you might want to memorize this verse, “...**So that the world may know...I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded me....**” (John 14:31a) Now watch because I think this is the reason for the contrast in Ephesians chapter 5 when he talks about us walking in love and then he says, “**But immorality or...impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.**” (Ephesians 5:3) Now who was a saint? A saint is a person who has been set aside. But not set aside on a shelf but set aside for God. A saint is a person who has been sanctified, who has been made holy and this is what God has done. He has said, “You’re a saint now. You’re to walk as Jesus walked. If you walk as Jesus walked, then immorality and impurity and greed is not going to be named among you because it’s not proper as saints. Because you’ve been set apart for me and if you’re going to walk in love and you’re going to love me, you’re going to keep My commandments.” And you and I need to understand this that all immorality is sin. It is absolute sin and God will have none of it in your life. And listen to me very carefully. If you’re sleeping around because the culture says it’s

all right and many people in the church are tolerating it also. But if this is your lifestyle then you’ve got to know this. According to the Word of God if you think you’re a Christian you’re deceived and God wants to bring you out of that. He didn’t have you tune in to this program to demolish you but He had you tune in to this program so that you might be cleansed with the washing of the water of the Word so that you might either come to know Jesus Christ and therefore be set aside as a saint or so that you as a Christian might see hey, that behavior is unacceptable. It is unacceptable. God will not tolerate it and if you’re going to walk in love then this is not the way you can walk. You’ve got to get rid of it. You’ve got to stop it. And not only do you stop it but you watch your mouth while you’re doing it. Watch what He says. **“...Immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which [is] not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.” (Ephesians 5:3-4)** In other words what’s coming out of your mouth? The only befitting thing to come out of a mouth of a child of God is giving thanks and building someone else up. Edifying, speaking in grace but He says, “There is to be no filthiness, there is to be no silly talk, there is to be no coarse jesting.” (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 5:4) Do you know what that kind of talk is? That’s the kind of talk with the innuendoes. That’s the kind of talk with “Oh, Bill, Bill, listen. I’m I’m headed in the kitchen with your wife, Bill. She’s good looking.” What does that say? That’s an innuendo. That is a sexual innuendo. You call the person on it and you say, “Look, we’re not to talk to.... I didn’t mean anything by it. Good gracious. Get off my case. Don’t be such a prude. Don’t be such a goody goody.” Listen. A child of God is a goody goody. A child of God walks in love. A child of God is obedient to the commandments of God and this is what He’s saying. “I don’t want this in your life. If you’re gonna walk in love, I don’t want any immorality. I don’t want any impurity. I don’t want any greed, no filthy talk, no silly talk, no coarse jesting. None of that because you’ve been

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set apart. You’ve been named a saint. Can you imagine Jesus jesting like this? Can you imagine Jesus walking down the road with His apostles and a woman passes by and Jesus making comments about her? No you can’t. Because there’s a purity, there’s a holiness, there’s a love of God, there’s an obedience to God’s commandments. Yes He was tempted in all points as we are but He was without sin and you and I are to live the same way. You say, “Are you calling me to a life of holiness?” Yes because that’s what God calls you to and what God is saying to you, Beloved, look, it’s not about you. It’s not about you getting more. It’s not about you seeing it and wanting it and desiring it. It is about you loving God so much that all you want to do is live by His commandments and please Him so that the world will know that He has sent you. That’s what it’s all about. Walk that way.