

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Connected: Ephesians Study Week 12 Walking in Love

Ephesians 5:1-7

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷Therefore do not be partners with them.

I. The Plea

- To imitate God means to _____ His _____.
- We can't imitate God's _____ without being immersed in His _____.

I John 3:2

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Psalms 1

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. ⁴Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. ⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. ⁶For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

- _____ is a byproduct of being in someone's _____.

John 1:12-13

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

- Imitating God means knowing truth, _____ in truth, and _____ truth.
- Our walk should be _____ and _____.
- We must be strengthened with _____ through the inner man in order to _____.

Ephesians 3:16, 19

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

- God's love is _____, _____ and self sacrificing.
- To fail to _____ and fail to _____ is to deny God's nature within us.
- The depth of our _____ is shown by how much we know we have been _____.

Luke 7:36-47

Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, ³⁸and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. ³⁹When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. ⁴¹"Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. ⁴⁴Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

II. The Perversion

- Whatever God _____ satan _____.
- Worldly love is reciprocal: we give a _____ in return for getting _____.

Matthew 5:46

If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

- Immorality is merely a lack of _____.

I Thessalonians 4:3-5

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God;

- It is never a person's prerogative to _____ what God has _____.
- If we devalue sex with our _____ we will ultimately dishonor sex with our _____.
- Thankfulness is a mark of the _____ and a cure for the _____.

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Be joyful always; ¹⁷pray continually; ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

III. The Punishment

- Perverted _____ always leads to _____.
- We will always live _____ lives until Christ becomes our _____.
- True _____ always brings life _____.

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

- God's _____ have God's _____.

Titus 2:11-12

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

- If our lives aren't impacted by our father's _____ we cannot claim our father's _____.

I Corinthians 6:9-10

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ¹⁰nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

- "Empty words" are words that promise _____ without _____.