

WALKING AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT
EPH. 5:17-21

Introduction:

A. The Christian is left in the world after his birth into God's family and kingdom.

1. Jesus emphasized this in His prayer.
2. We are to live a life that honors God.

B. Our life as a Christian is likened as a walk.

1. walk in love.
2. walk as children of light.

How can we walk in love, light, and follow God?

C. Light is symbolic of enlightenment.

1. It may mean God's Will.
2. It means what God has revealed.
3. There is no "inner light," it is "outer light."

I. KNOW THE WILL OF GOD. V17

A. "wherefore be ye not unwise."

1. Because time is of the essence.
2. unwise = aphon = without understanding.

B. "but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

1. understanding = suniemi - the ability to bring things together and see them in relationship to one another. The saints are to use their reasoning powers.
2. will = thelema - wish, desire, active volition.

II. BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD. V18

A. "and be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess."

1. drunk = methuskomai - to get drunk, the inability to preserve one's self control, committing distasteful acts.

2. excess = asotia - one who cannot save our spare, and extravagantly squanders his means and is debauched.
3. Don't get your stimulus from wine for there is always the danger of excessive drinking.

B. "but be filled with the Spirit."

1. filled = pleroo - to fill. (control)
2. "but let the Spirit stimulate your life."
3. The bacchus festivals were drunken orgies.

The religious celebrations of Dionysus were well-known to the ancient world. The worshipers felt that they were united, indwelt, and controlled by Dionysus who gave them special powers and abilities (s. the references by the previous word; s. also H.J.Rose, Religion in Greece and Rome, 60f. [New York: Harper and Brothers, 1959]; Rogers, Bib Sac 136 [July, 1979], 249-257).

III. ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER. V19

A. "speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs."

1. speaking = laleo - [having a dialogue] to use the human voice with words, to talk, and with another to hold colloquy. conversation.
2. psalms = psalmos - song of praise, psalm, The verb meant primarily the plucking of strings and the noun was used of sacred songs chanted to the accompaniment of instrumental music.
3. hymns = humnos - sacred poetical compositions whose primary purpose is to praise.
4. songs spiritual = ode pneumatikais - any kind of song, especially lyric poetry, but "spiritual."
 - a. Amy Grant.
 - b. The moan that keeps the family together.

B. "singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord."

1. singing = adontes - singing.

2. making melody = psallo - to chant accompanied by stringed instruments.
3. singing and psalming with the heart of you to the Lord. With all of your heart.

IV. MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING. V20

- A. "giving thanks always for all things."
 1. always.
 2. all things.
- B. "unto God and the Father."
 1. God - theo.
 2. Father - patri.
- C. "in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
 1. name - onomasi - name.
 2. Lord Jesus Christ.

V. DO NOT INSIST ON YOUR OWN WAY. V21

- A. "submitting yourselves one to another."
 1. submit = hupotassomai - to line one's self up under, to submit. Used in a military senses of soldiers submitting to their superior or slaves submitting to their masters. The word has primarily the idea of giving up one's own right or will, i.e., "to subordinate one's self"
 - a. allelois - dat. pl. "to one another."
- B. "in the fear of God."
 1. fear - phobos - fear.
 2. God = christou - Christ.

VI. THESE CONCEPTS ARE NOT THE WAY OF SALVATION, BUT THE WAY AFTER SALVATION.

- A. We do not "walk" the right path to salvation.
- B. We walk the right path after salvation.