

"Walk in Love"

Pentecost 12

1)

Ephesians 4:30-5:2

2)

August 15, 2021

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and forever. Amen. ()

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Just this last weekend. We had the opportunity to hear from Ephesians chapter 4 and one of the aspects of what we're talking about. As we pick up here just a little bit later is another example of that aspect of Christian Living and Christian lifestyle. Now, when you think of the book of Ephesians as a whole you could look at chapters one, through three being focused on what God wants the Church of God and the way he wants it to be structured and how he wants called workers. All of God's people to continue to grow up and build up the body of Christ. And then when you look at the last section chapters 4 through 6 of Ephesians,

You get that aspect of Christian Living which is certainly what we see here. But now I got to ask you. How do you walk?

If you walk with your spouse, one of you might be a little taller than the other and one of you might walk a little faster than the other depending on how long that's dry. It is, if you have children or grandchildren, perhaps really little people, you know, that their walk is even slower than that. Now, when I ask how you walk, that's one aspect of the way that we certainly could think about it, but I'd like you to think about it, more? In this sense.

The way that God talks about walking, when he talks about walking through the Bible. He talks about Believers Walking with God, walking in the ways of God or doing, as he says here in chapter 5, verse 1, imitating, God Walking In Love. Now why is that so important for you and I to consider in the aspect in which The Way We Walk. Well, how do we carry ourselves throughout our lives? How do we

At how do we think when we're in the presence of Believers, when we're in the presence of our own family, when were in the presence of complete strangers, and Outsiders the way in which we walk as we want to consider here, this evening is really the aspect of the way God impacts us. And the way our faith

around our Savior, Jesus Christ, and in our Savior, Jesus Christ continues to build us up.

Now, when you think about that aspect of how we walk, listen to those words that the Apostle Paul shares to us here in Ephesians chapter 4. He says, in do not grieve the holy spirit of God with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Now, those are some pretty weighty words that are here before us. What does it mean to grieve the holy spirit of God? Right, there are things that we might do or not do the things that God doesn't want us to do the ways, in which we perhaps break, his Ten Commandments are aspects of sinning against God. Now, the aspect of grieving the holy spirit of God is being unrepentant for those sins. The ways in which we break those Commandments.

Now if it says, do not grieve the holy spirit of God. He also tells us a reason why. **As you see that day of redemption coming.** Have you ever heard the phrase - Begin with the end in mind? The reason why I say that is because I want you to consider your walk. If you go out for a walk, you know how long it's going to take. You have the route in mind that you've taken before. I don't know about you, but I know our mile route around our neighborhood and how long roughly it's going to take and I could go on that route two or three times, right? If I go 3 miles. Well, it's going to be a little bit short of an hour, but

As I set out. I know how many times I'm going to go around. I know and can tell the kids. Hey, we'll be back in about an hour and everyone is ready and prepared. We know where the end is. How about your walk? Not the one that you might take here in 45 minutes. But the one that you take every day, you wake up. I say those words begin with the end in mind, because that's exactly what God tells us to do here. As you see the day of redemption approaching.

What is God in love done for you. And for me? He does one and only son Jesus to take away our every sin. We became part of God's family, through the sacrament of holy baptism. We are marked as dearly loved and as well here here in a little bit redeemed and love children of God. But do you know where your home is? It's not making it around the block after a mile and two miles, and three miles and ending up back at home.

But your home is heaven. And the way in which you walk is very important for you, to remember where the end of your walk is. We don't know how long we have in our journey here on this Earth. We don't know if our walk is going to be a mere short hours or 70 or 80 years, as God gives us strength. But God always wants us to have the end in mind. The day of redemption is that thought of God redeeming us buying us back from sin death and the power of the devil. The very fact that he's won US away from hell.

And for himself, and to spend eternity with him forever in heaven. It makes you not wait and, and not want to wait to get there. Now you consider these words right? Considering the that your Redemption is Drawing Near. He goes on to say here in the very next verse and get rid of all bitterness rage and anger brawling, and slander along with every form of malice.

You certainly are some of the ways in which you and I can and do grieve the Holy Spirit. Do you see a theme that runs through each of these here in verse 31? The Apostle Paul literally says, get rid of throw it out like your garbage, right? You don't want it sitting around, you put it in the dumpster. You take it out to the curb. The sanitation crew comes by every week. You don't want it anywhere near you for longer than it needs to be.

In the same way, we could say that about Sin. And specifically this sin of holding inside ourself and allowing to build up various aspects of anger. Get rid of all bitterness rage and anger brawling and slander various aspects of sinning against other people. Having something against them and not forgiving them failing to heed God's command and encouragement. Don't let the sun go down while you're still angry with your brother or sister in Christ.

This brawling and slander, the aspect. When you think of slander, the aspect of talking poorly about someone when they're not in your presence or company not allowing them the opportunity to give your Fender yourself. What grandma or mom had said is, if you don't have anything good to say, write about someone else, then don't say it at all. God doesn't want us to act this way. And why is that?

Because when we think of each of these aspects of verse 31, it really is that aspect that builds up inside ourselves and it

does. So in a very negative way. Get rid of all bitterness and rage and anger, all of those aspects, which really threatened your spiritual Faith, Life and your walk with God. God, commands us and Us to walk in love and as well. Here again in a moment, but he wants us to do so by getting of these aspects of sin. Because again, as I had mentioned before, if we're walking, and we know where the end is. There are really two ending points on that Journey, aren't there. There's one that ends in eternal life. And the other that ends in Eternal death. Bitterness rage and anger, malice slander. All those things that Fester up inside your heart, threaten you in your walk with God and threatened to change that ending point. The Apostle Paul went on to say in verse 32. Be kind and compassionate to one another forgiving each other just as in Christ, God, forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore as dearly loved children and live a life of love just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Being kind and what kindness looks like be kind and compassionate to one another forgiving each other if the aspects of anger rage malice, slander brawling, all of those combined have that negative connotation of not forgiving. God says the exact opposite here in verse 32, be forgiving. And how do we do that? It's easy enough for me to stand up here and say, right? Get rid of all bitterness and anger and rage. But you and I both know, sometimes that's easier said than done. Now. Why is that if it's so hard for us to forgive someone else? Where do we find the strength to do? Just that? If someone has wronged you in an absolutely terrible way. Where do we get the strength to forgive that person? If a spouse family member friend continues to sin against us, we think of sometimes two brothers and sisters fighting constantly.

Where do you get that power to forgive? How do you be kind and compassionate to one another? When the only thing that comes your way is words of hatred jealousy. Little bit of Envy words that don't build you up, but rather put you down. Lord, how can I be kind and compassionate to that person? How can I walk in love? If you notice the pattern here at the end of chapter 4, in the beginning of chapter 5, it's this one thing. You do it in the same way that Christ, forgave you. When you look at the sins of other people, are they ugly? Are they messy? Are they mean, are they

hurtful? Now, imagine what our sins look like to God. When we offend him.

When we speak poorly about our neighbor and break the eighth commandment. When we have lustful thoughts, when we have mean and hateful words of murder. Imagine how that looks to a holy and righteous God. And yet, what did he do? He sent his only son to take away our every sin.

When we grasp the forgiveness that God has for you and for me. Don't you find it just a little bit easier? To be kind and compassionate to others. Because, you know, That they're in the same boat as you. In deep need of that forgiveness. There, you can find. In that forgiveness and that love of your savior, Jesus Christ. And you can continue to go back to that person who has wronged you, you can continue to bring up from that. Well of God's love for you in Christ, Jesus.

You can walk in love. Now there's so many wonderful Bible passages, right? If you were to do a word search on what is love or walking and love in relation to the various aspects of the Bible. But think of and consider the ways in which God did an action in sending his son, Jesus. When God sent Jesus, to be our savior from sin, when God sent Jesus to the cross.

Where Jesus was nailed there to pay for your sins and mine and for the sins of the entire world. What does it mean to walk in love or better yet – how is it that you walk? Think about that, the next time you go out for a walk. Think about that every day that you wake up. But remember to keep that end in mind. Knowing that the walk, sometimes can be very short.

It always ends through faith in Jesus in heaven. But those who perhaps don't know that walk or journey yet. Imagine the ways that you can impact influence them. When you hear the various aspects of slander, for example, on national news and you hear so many horrible stories that people just talking down in mean and dirty to one another how much of an impact might you have.

If you walk in love and share that with the world, If you show the world that seem forgiveness and love that God has shown you in Christ Jesus. How many more people might have the opportunity to walk in love as well? And come to fully understand and grasp that love of Jesus.

Let's pray – Dear heavenly father. We thank you for these words of encouragement and continuing to remind us to imitate and copy you to walk in. Love, in the same way that you've loved us and sent your son. Jesus, to be our savior from sin. Help us to do this, and the various ways of our Christian Life. And how we live to be kind and compassionate, and to forgive others. Forgive as we have been forgiven. It's in Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Phil.4:7)