



Sermon Notes — Pastor Thomas Keys, SRMBC

Ephesians: The Christian's Owners Manual VII—Walk This Way (The Jesus Way)
Scriptures Ephesians 5:1 – 20

INTRODUCTION

In 1978, I joined U. S. Army and 1st the Drill Sgt's changed, was the way I walked. No dipping to right and sliding to the left. But I had to learn to walk at Attention, stepping off with my left foot, 30" (120 steps per min.) from heel to heel, arms straight, hands cupped with my thumbs covering the index fingers - marching in step with cadence of the leader and in step with the other soldiers.

And beloved, when we come to Christ, we come out from the world (its way of thinking and doing) we are called to walk in a different way. Our feet and our lives moving to the beat to a different drummer, to different sound – the Word and Spirit of God. When we recognize and realize who Jesus our Lord and Savior and that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, He changes our walk and our talk completely and forever!!!

SERMON POINTS

As we are nearing the end of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, we are in part of the letter where he gets extremely practical as it relates to our everyday lives. Paul starts us with doctrine in Ch. 1 – 3 (in order live right you've got to believe right). But through Ch. 4 – 6, Paul goes from showing and for us to know what we need to believe by way of doctrine to showing how what we believe should affect the way we live via application.

So, what I want to do in this message to inform us and challenge us about the way we ought to walk so we experience the very best of God's blessings and show His glory to others by walking the Jesus' Way...

I. Walk In The Love of Christ (vv. 1 – 7)

In vv. 3 – 7 Paul lays out a list of things that hinder or destroy our walk with the Lord (fornication, uncleanness, covetousness, filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting), but far too many of us in the church have spent too much time walking the wrong way.

Today, there are many people claiming to march for Justice and against equality- yet they are walking in anger, fear, selfishness, mistrust, and rage. Yet as believers in Christ – we called to walk in love – not just for a certain group of people for all people. A Love that is patient, not jealous, boastful, proud, or rude. It is not pushy, irritable, or vengeful. strives for justice and truth, Love never gives up, and this Love – the Love of Christ never ever fails. (I Cor 13:4 – 8a)

A father and son arrived in a small western town looking for an uncle whom they had never seen. Suddenly, the father, pointing across the square to a man who was walking away from them, exclaimed, "There goes my uncle!"

His son asked, "How do you know when you have not seen him before?" "Son, I know him because he walks exactly like my father." If we walk in the Spirit, the world should know us by our walk. Can people (especially those closest to you...) tell if you are a follower of Jesus? Ask the Lord to help you walk the Jesus way...

II. Walk In The Light of Christ (vv. 8 – 14)

Have you heard this story about a guy at night looking for something under a streetlight? He was approached by a guy who asked him what he was doing? The guy replied, "I'm looking for my car keys – I dropped them in the alley down the street." The 2nd guy replied, "I'm confused, if you dropped you keys in the alley down the street why are you looking for them under this streetlight?" The man answered, "Because the light's better..."

As believers walking with the Lord we to continually to be looking into the Light of the Word of God so that we will know what the will of the Lord is – and how walk in all of the fruit of the Spirit. Like to the Psalmist sang I want to walk worthy my calling to fulfill – Please order my steps and I will do your precious will. Here is tis the world is every changing (everything is racist now...) But you are still the same. Please order my steps in your Word and I will praise your name. In to have God order our steps in His Word, Paul says that we've got to be awake. Can't you see the Lord shaking the entire world in general (global pandemic, the shutdown of travel, the economy, strife and unrest...) but he is calling His church in particular, to "Wake Up!!!" The church has been "sleep-walking" for far too long is time to wake and walk in the light...

A young lady who was attempting to defend her attendance at questionable places of amusement told her friend that she thought a Christian could go anywhere. Her friend replied, "Certainly she can, but I am reminded of a little incident which happened last summer when I went with a party of friends to explore a coal mine. One of the young women appeared dressed in a dainty white gown.

When her friends remonstrated with her, she appealed to the old miner who was to act as guide to the party. 'Can't I wear a white dress down into the mine?' she asked petulantly. 'Yes, mum,' returned the old man, 'there is nothing to keep you from wearing a white frock down there, but there will be considerable to keep you from wearing one back.'"

There is nothing that prevents a Christian from bringing his good testimony anywhere he goes; but there is much to keep him from bringing it back from questionable places. Does the light from you walk help them to see that Jesus is the Light of the World? If not commit today to walk the Jesus Way!

III. Walk In Wisdom of Christ (vv. 15 - 20)

We talked about how if we are going to walk the Jesus Way – we need to Walk in the Love of Christ and to Walk in the Light of Christ. But finally, Paul lets us know in vv. 15 – 20, that we need to walk in the Wisdom of Christ. When you are committed to walking the Jesus Way -it will make you wise – even at a young age.

When we have and walk in God's wisdom from His Word – we can make the most and the best use of our time – because these days are evil – people are being goaded by the enemy of our souls to war and fight over the most inconsequential things instead of looking to the eternal and spiritual. This not the time to stagger like a drunken man.. Beloved when we try to live with one foot in the world and one foot in the church it makes us stagger, stumble, and fall. O, but when we walk in the Wisdom of the Word, In the Light of Word, in the Love of Christ prayerfully seeking the Lord to fill us with the Spirit our and we will also have a new Walk , and new talk and new song in our hearts

As I close, Liz Murray's drug-addicted parents raised her and her sister in poverty in New York—really raised isn't the right word, they had to care for themselves. Her father was an intelligent man, quite gifted, but lived a life of drug abuse. Her mom suffered from mental illness, addiction and prostitution—content to live from one high to the next.

What makes Murray's story remarkable isn't her dire upbringing—unfortunately, these stories are all too common. Her story is remarkable because she rose from these circumstances to graduate from Harvard and is the author of *Breaking Night* and the subject of a Lifetime movie, *From Homeless to Harvard*. In other words, she went from walking on the road to destruction and changed her walk and got on the road to salvation and redemption and it forever changed her life ...

O, it reminds me of a Man who walked a road – one way, and but there was change – and that change enables you and I – no matter what we've done or what been done to us to find forgiveness, redemption and eternal life because... He died on the Cross for our sins and the sin of the whole world

- ◆ Jesus on the Friday walked down the road to Calvary
- ◆ He was beaten and bruised with Crown of Thorns on His Head
- ◆ And when he was done walking, He was nailed in His hands and feet to the Cross
- ◆ He died and was buried in a borrowed tomb.
- ◆ But on the 3rd day He walked out of the Grave with all power to give us a new walk a new talk and a new life!

And beloved, if you want to find real joy, peace and real meaning in your life – quit walking in ways of the world or culture – walk this way – The Jesus way...

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- ◆ What would you say would be the biggest difference in your walk/lifestyle since you've trusted Christ?
- ◆ How does walking in the wisdom of God's Word help us avoid the pitfalls from walking in worldly wisdom?
- ◆ Would the people who know you best see that you are walking in the Light of Christ? In what ways?
- ◆ What are some things that God has done you that you can be thankful for? Take some time to express your gratitude in praise and prayer.