

# Walking in Christ-Likeness

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, April 18, 2021; Steve Thiel

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**Sermon Theme:** In light of God's eternal plan to grow and mature the church into her Savior, each individual member is called and commanded to lay aside sin and put on Christ-likeness; specifically walking in sacrificial love for one another in real and practical ways.

## **I. Basic Walking Instructions – Read Ephesians 4:1-24**

- A. How does Paul utilize the “walking” language in chapters 4 and 5 (4:1, 4:17, 5:2, 5:8, 5:15)? How is this “walking” language helpful in understanding verses Ephesians 4:17-24?
- B. In what ways do you think you are specifically gifted in order to serve the congregation here at Proclamation and build up your brothers and sisters in Christ? Are you doing so?
- C. As you consider what you once were, “being greedy to practice every kind of impurity” (v.19) with who you are now, a person “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (v.3); in what ways are you eagerly putting off sin and joyfully putting on righteousness in order to be the very best member of this body as you possibly can? How do you personally promote unity?

## **II. Special Walking Instructions – Read Ephesians 4:25-32**

- A. In what ways would you like to put off falsehood and put on speaking truth? How are you tempted to present yourself in a way that people will think more highly of you than they ought?
- B. According to Paul, what is a godly way to handle anger? Are there things in this world that we should be angry about? What are they and why do they deserve righteous anger? In what ways do you struggle to handle your frustrations in a godly way? Venting? Explosions? Silence?
- C. As you think about verse 28, would you consider yourself to be a generous person? What do you think godly generosity looks like? Can it be measured? Is it quantitative or more of a heart issue?
- D. If you did a speech audit of all the things that you say over the course of an entire week, what would be the main topics? What would be the most consistent tone? Anger? Frustration? Joy? Do you think you're a person who is more likely to build up or tear down the people in your life?

## **III. Summary Walking Instructions – Read Ephesians 5:1-2**

- A. How does Ephesians 5:1-2 help us understand the summary of what it looks like to walk in Christ-likeness? According to Paul, what is the motivation for loving our brothers and sisters in Christ?
- B. How do you think you do at remembering where it is that you've come from with regard to your sinfulness and the just judgment that you deserve? What are some practical things that you can do to keep that in the front of your mind on a daily basis? How is Matthew 18:21-35 helpful?
- C. Love is the willingness to do whatever is best for another person independent of the cost to yourself. If you were to pick one area in your life where you would like to grow in loving others, what would it be? How might the body of Christ help you to grow in that area of your life?