

Walking as Children of Light
CFG Study Guide for May 1, 2016

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.
And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. (Eph 5:1-2)*

1. Pray for the Spirit's illumination and guidance as you meditate on his Word together, and what it means for our lives.
2. Read Ephesians 5:1-2 (above). What is the reason Paul gives for imitating God? How does Paul define love here?

Walk in *What Kind of Love?*

It is hard enough to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt 19:19)
because we rank our own needs very high.

Jesus goes further in John 13:34—
"Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

Jesus loved you in a way that even you can't love yourself. He loved you when
you were morally incapacitated, dead in your rebellious transgressions.
In *that* state, He loved you enough to die for you.

3. *It is important to ground the rest of this discussion in those terms, with that understanding. As children of God we have been loved with a redeeming, sanctifying love that removes all condemnation. Without that grounding, we slip into legalism.*
4. Sheryl Crow sang "If it makes you happy, it can't be that bad..." It's only a pop song, but it was popular for a reason. What is wrong with that logic?
5. Read through Ephesians 5:3-21 by yourself. (Next page.) Draw a line through ~~things we must not do~~ as "children of light." Underline things we should do.

³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

6. Discuss what you found as you studied the text in this way.
7. Share with your brothers and sisters which of these prohibitions are challenging for you. What have you found helpful? Then pray for one another.