

WALKING IN WISDOM
IMITATING GOD, PART 3
(Ephesians 5:15-17)

- I. The Basic COMMAND (Eph. 5:1)
 - A. To be IMITATORS of GOD
 - B. To be like BELOVED CHILDREN
 - 1. SECURE and CONTENT in God's love
 - 2. Desiring to BE LIKE Him
- II. The Specific COURSE—Walk in LOVE (Eph. 5:1-7)
- III. The Specific COURSE—Walk in LIGHT (Eph. 5:8-14)
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- IV. The Specific COURSE—Walk in WISDOM (Eph. 5:15-17)
 - A. Be ATTENTIVE, GUARDING every area of your life (5:15)
 - 1. This is a FORCEFUL command
 - 2. It requires constant EXAMINATION of every DETAIL of our lives
 - 3. It demands CONCENTRATION on living above REPROACH
 - 4. It assumes we HAVE the necessary INFORMATION
 - 5. It demands that we GROW in WISDOM

- B. Be EFFECTIVE, USING opportunities as they arise (5:16)
 - 1. We must “REDEEM” time to INVEST for the Lord
 - 2. We must make the BEST USE of the time ALLOTTED
 - 3. We must avoid PARTICIPATING in the EVIL
 - 4. We are to seize every OPPORTUNITY for doing GOOD

- C. Be SUBMISSIVE, APPLYING yourself to accomplishing GOD’S WILL (5:17)
 - 1. We must not be FEARFUL of the EVIL in the WORLD
 - 2. We must not substitute BUSYNESS for OBEDIENCE
 - 3. God’s will begins with SALVATION (1 Tim. 2:3-4)
 - 4. God’s will includes our SANCTIFICATION (1 Thess. 4:3)
 - 5. God’s will includes proper SUBMISSION to HUMAN authority (1 Pet. 2:13-15; Heb. 13:17)
 - 6. God’s will often includes SUFFERING (1 Pet. 2:20)
 - 7. God’s will demands that we be THANKFUL (1 Thess. 5:18)