

Walking in the Life of God

Ephesians 4: 17-24

9/01/02

Intro

- Pray for Africa churches

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In the first three chapters of Ephesians Paul tells us about the fact that God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He says in chapter 2 that he made us alive with Christ, raised us up with Him, and seated us with Christ in heavenly places. All this is in the past tense. God has already blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In chapter 3 we saw how lavish is God's grace.

Now, Paul is getting more and more specific about how we should walk in response to God's amazing grace. In fact, that is one of the keys to responding to God's grace – that we stay amazed at God.

Paul begins by saying that we should not walk as the Gentiles walk. In other words, we should be different because of what God has done in our lives through the Holy Spirit.

I. Do not walk as the Gentiles walk.

A. Paul uses the word walk as a reference to how we choose to live.

- In fact, he is calling them to walk differently than they used to walk.
- **Eph 5:15 Be careful how you walk – in wisdom.**

B. They walk in the futility of their mind.

- There is a direct connection between how we think and how we live.

- It's not the events of life, but how we interpret them that determines whether we are victorious.

C. Futility means to be without purpose or understanding – pointless.

Illus- We have great advancements in technology, but does it make a difference in who we are?

- **We're better off, but are we better people?**
- **If Africa, they have nothing, life is hard, they are very poor, but there are many great people.**

- We must decide on which basis in which to live, either God's way of the world's way.

Illus – A boy wanted his sparrows to sing like a canary, so he put a canary in with his sparrows...

Some people want to have both – the world and God, but the result is sure – you'll sound like a sparrow.

- Either the world is right or God is right.

D. If we choose God's way, we must be willing to think differently.

- **Rom 12:1-2 Be transformed by the renewing of the mind.**
- **Rom 8: 5-7 The mind set on the flesh is death.**

II. Why is the world's way futile?

Vs 18-19

- A. Because it is outside the life of God.
- If it's outside the life of God, it has no future, it is pointless.

Illus- Driving through Kinshasa where 8 million people live...

- B. How is the world outside the life of God?
- **Darkness** – Truth is light and Jesus is the light of the world.
 - **Ignorance**- There is a part of the world that does not function –their spirit. If knowledge is not related to spiritual things, it's futile – pointless.
 - **Hardness**- the bible calls this having a heart of stone, to be callous.

Illus – skin that is calloused is not sensitive, in the same way, a heart that is calloused is not sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

III. What we need is the life of God.

- A. Man was made to be the dwelling place of God.
- B. The life of God is essential to manhood.
- Without it we're empty, meaningless, and without purpose.
 - That means we're not living.

C. How do we live in the life of God?

- Live in the light – truth and life go together. If you have God's truth in your heart, then you have God's life.
- Live in knowledge – Be amazed at God!!

Illus – What makes a church have depth? Worship? No truth...

- Be responsive to the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

Be renewed in the spirit of the mind.

Rom 12:1-2 Be transformed by the renewing of our minds.