

# Ephesians

*More than a Makeover*

## “Walk This Way”

### Ephesians 5:1-2

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / April 13, 2025*

**Ephesians 4:31-5:2** “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. <sup>5:1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: **Thanks Be To God!**

#### I. You need to know God’s command is grounded in His own example!

**Ephesians 5:1-2** “Therefore **be imitators of God**, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, **as Christ loved us** and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

A. Humility isn’t just required of us. It was modeled for us.

**John 13:14-15** “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup> **For I have given you an example**, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”

B. Love isn’t just demanded of us. It was modeled for us.

**1 John 4:10-11** “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

C. Forgiveness isn’t just expected of us. It was modeled for us.

**Ephesians 4:32** “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**”

#### II. You have no right to withhold forgiveness from anyone – because Christ didn’t withhold it from you.

**Ephesians 5:1** “Therefore **be imitators of God**, as beloved children.”

A. You need to remember how much you have been forgiven.

a. We not only sin—we’re also skilled at justifying it, minimizing it, or not even recognizing it.

**Jeremiah 17:9** “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”

b. David acknowledges there are sins in him that he doesn’t even know about.

**Psalms 19:12** “Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.”

- c. Paul knows that a clear conscience doesn't mean a clean record.

**1 Corinthians 4:4** "For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me."

- d. Jesus paid it all!

**Colossians 2:13-14** "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, **having forgiven us all our trespasses**, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross."

- B. You have been shown mercy—so you must show mercy.

**Luke 6:36** "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

- C. Forgiveness is the clearest evidence of God's love in you.

**Colossians 3:12-13** "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; **as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.**"

*Forgiven people forgive people.*

### **III. You need to walk in love by giving, not getting – just as Christ gave Himself for you.**

**Ephesians 5:2** "And walk in love, **as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us**, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

- A. Walking in love will cost you, but not as much as it cost Jesus.

**Hebrews 12:3-4** "Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. <sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood."

**Romans 5:8** "But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, **Christ died for us...**"

- B. Christ's love and obedience pleased the Father—and yours does, too.

**John 14:23** "Jesus answered him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.'"

**John 15:10-11** "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

### **Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:**

1. Pastor Peter said "Jesus never says, 'Do as I say, not as I do.'" How does seeing Christ's example make obedience seem more possible?

2. How does the statement “You have no right to withhold forgiveness from anyone...” challenge you?
3. Pastor Peter said “Forgiveness can be declared immediately, but trust is proven over time.” Why is it helpful to differentiate between forgiveness and trustworthiness?
4. Who do you need to forgive—even if they haven’t apologized? Even if you don’t trust them?
5. How does knowing that your obedience pleases God give you confidence in your daily walk with Him?