

# RENEWED

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

## EPHESIANS 5:1-7

“WALK IN LOVE”

NOVEMBER 9, 2025

### SUMMARY

This week in our Ephesians series, we are called to walk in love – but when Paul tells us to be “imitators of God” and “walk in love,” he’s really saying, “Be like your Father.” Why? Because we are His children. And just as children often emulate their parents, we naturally adopt the habits of our family, especially those whom we admire the most. Therefore, since we are God’s children through Christ Jesus, we are called to spend time with our Father to become like Him.

As God’s children, He invites us to “look like Him” by loving as He does. And how do we know what that looks like? We look to Jesus – His life, death, and resurrection – to show us exactly what love looks like: love gives, serves, and sacrifices. Modeling ourselves after Jesus’ life is what it means to “walk in love.”

Conversely, Paul also reminds us that walking in love involves letting go of behaviors opposite of love – those rooted in selfishness. Things like immorality, greed, and careless talk stem from self-centeredness. The world often celebrates these as normal, but these counterfeits are not real love. Love doesn’t take advantage of people, nor does it chase after getting “more” from them, but finds contentment and fullness in what God has already given so that we can give ourselves away.

Pastor Jeff exhorted us to resist these behaviors and walk in love by spending time with God and practicing gratitude. First, we prioritize our time with God, saturating our hearts and lives with His love, so that we imitate Him. Out of the overflow of God’s love, we encourage and influence one another towards godliness. Second, cultivating deep gratitude and trust for what God has done, is doing, and will do helps us guard against pride and selfishness. When we do these things, we become more like Jesus, giving the world a beautiful glimpse of who He is and what true love looks like.

Together, let’s unpack this text and apply it to our lives.

## DISCUSSION

## Expand Our Awareness

- Who were some of the people you tried to imitate growing up, and how did they shape who you became?
- How does that experience help you understand what it means to imitate God as His child?



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: Please feel empowered to use only the questions that are helpful for the context of your group.

## Extract the Truth

## Read the text: Ephesians 5:1-7

- What did you like, what bothered you, what grabbed your attention, what raised a question?
- At the beginning of the passage, how is Christ's sacrifice described? What does that teach us about the nature of what it means to walk in love/imitate Christ?

In verses 3–4, Paul contrasts love with behaviors like immorality, impurity, greed, and crude speech.

- Why do you think he lists these specific sins as the opposite of love?

Paul ends this passage by saying, "Therefore do not become partners with them."

- What do you think he meant by "partnership"? How do we avoid that while also building relationships for the sake of the gospel?

## Experience Transformation

- What sin from the list jumped out at you the most, and why?
- What do these sin patterns reveal about what you admire or who you are spending your time with?
- Pastor Jeff said those we spend time with, especially those we admire, eventually shape our hearts, minds, and actions. Do you agree or disagree, and why?
- When have you powerfully experienced the presence or work of Jesus in your life – either directly or through others? What difference did that make in your life?
- How can you cultivate more gratitude to God? What stands in the way of that?
- What is one thing you can do this week to move towards Christ? How can this group encourage you and help hold you accountable?

## Pray

PREPARE FOR  
NEXT WEEK:

Ephesians 5:8-14