

Imitating God – Part 4 – By Walking in Wisdom

I. Ephesians 5:1-20

Ephesians 5:1-17: **1**Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; **2**and **walk in love**, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. **3**But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; ... **7**Therefore do not be partakers with them; **8**for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; **walk as children of Light** **9**(for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth), **10**trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord...

15Therefore be **careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise**, **16**making the most of your time, because the days are evil. **17**So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is **18**And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, **19**speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; **20**always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; **21**and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

II. 4 Instructions for Imitating God –

a. Walking in Love- 5:2-6

b. Walking as Children of Light – 5:7-14

c. Walking in Wisdom – 5:15-17 – 2 Marks of a Wise Person:

i. Wise People Make the Most of Their _____. V. 16

1. “making the most of” – R.O.I. / Mt. 6:19-21
2. “time” –

ii. Wise People Understand God’s _____. V. 17

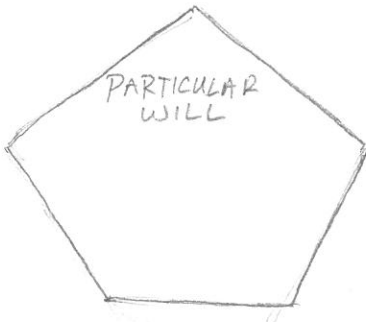
1. General Will –

- a. _____ - 1Tim 2:4
- b. _____ - 1Thess 4:3
- c. _____ - 1 Peter 2:13
- d. _____ - 1 Peter 4:19
- e. _____ - 1Thess 5:18

2. Particular Will –

- a. _____ of Scripture – Psalm 119:105
- b. _____ - Proverb 15:22
- c. _____ - Psalm 37:4, 5
- d. _____ - Acts
- e. _____ - Colossians 3:16

GENERAL WILL



d. Walking in the Spirit – 5:18-21; Galatians 5:16

CHOICE OR CONSEQUENCE?

The consequence . . .
that means the thing that is bound to follow,
as inevitably tied to choice and action
as a shadow to an object standing in the sun.

Every man is free to choose:
he may say "yes" when he ought to say "no";
he may break the laws of nature and custom;
he may parade before God and man in brazen defiance;
he is free to choose.

But he is NOT free to choose the consequence of his choice.
There his freedom stops.

Choose the broad way--and it will lead to destruction.

Choose the narrow way--and it will lead to life.

Choose to live for self--and it will lead to captivity.

Choose to live for others--and it will lead to freedom.

Choose to live for Satan--and you will
dance to his tune and
at the end of his string.

Choose to live for Christ--and you will
stand tall,
walk free,
live in joy and
abound in hope.

The choice is never beyond your control;
the consequence is always beyond your control.

The choice is yours and so is the consequence.
The one you make--and the other you take!

There are many YESes being said nowadays.

YES to selfishness
to choosing what is most desirable in the short term
rather than the long haul
to immediate gratification
to easy days and easy relationships
to what is "lawful but not expedient."

Sometimes it is important to say "NO." It has to be said over and over.

"NO, I won't go to bed with you."

"NO, I don't have time for some legitimate, second-best things."

"NO, I can't sleep in until noon."

"NO" must be said to some things in order to say "YES" to others.

What really matters is saying "YES" to the right things.

YES to Jesus
to total commitment
to choosing right over wrong
to being true to someone's trust
to keeping confidential the things shared with me.

Basically there are two ways in life:

good and bad
straight and crooked.

All through life, everyone must choose.

All experiences, all choices fall on one side of the line . . . or the other.