

We Are Glad *You* Are Here

Sunday, September 6, 2026



sermon: "Walking in Holiness" Ephesians 5:1-6

Big Idea: Walking in holiness reflects God's character and concern for us.

I. Reflecting Holiness (vv. 1-3)

- A. Just as children often reflect their parents in appearance, personality, and characteristics, we, as God's children, are called to reflect His holy and loving character (v. 1; cf. 1 Pet. 1:14-16).
- B. Reflecting God's holiness starts with love (vv. 1-2). When we walk in love, we reflect God's love for the world (cf. 1 Pet. 1:22; Jn. 3:16). Such love is:
 - 1. Sacrificial (v. 2; cf. Jn. 3:16; 15:12-13).
 - 2. Redemptive (v. 2; cf. Eph. 1:7-8).
 - 3. Pleasing to God (v. 2; cf. Heb. 13:15-16).
- C. Seeking a godly purity in our ethics, attitudes, and sexuality may be an old-fashioned idea, but it's still a priority to God, and consequently important for us as we seek to walk in a manner worthy of our calling in Christ (v. 3; cf. Eph. 4:1).

II. Walking in Holiness (vv. 3-6)

- A. The stereotype of God as some cosmic killjoy is simply untrue. The admonition to a life of holiness is rooted not only in God's character and His desire that we reflect it, but also in His loving concern for our spiritual and physical well-being. Holiness is:
 - 1. Set apart (cf. 1 Pet. 1:13-16) – A life that is centered on Christ and is distinct from worldly values and mores.
 - 2. A life of Godly character – A life of love for God and our neighbor that reflects obedience to God's Word.
- B. As such, we are called to avoid:
 - 1. Sexual immorality and impurity (vv. 3, 5).
 - 2. Greed (vv. 3, 5).
 - 3. Foolish talk (v. 4; cf. Js. 1:26).
- C. The main issue here is one of idolatry: Who or what do we worship? Paul's point is not sinless perfection, but a warning against persistent sin that does not reflect a redeemed life. If we have put our faith in Christ, then such attitudes and behaviors are behind us (cf. Eph. 4:20-24).

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