

Study Guide: “Walking Like Your Father”

Carter Sanger, Sep-09

Introduction

Read Ephesians 5:1-14.

I. Like Your Father

In this passage there are several references to children.

- Who is credited as the Father in verse 1 and in verse 6?
- According to the text, why is your father important? What does he give you? (See verse 5.)
- Do you notice your own children modeling you? Do you see yourself in your earthly father? In what ways?

II. Character of your Walk

Paul uses specific examples to characterize the walk of the “sons of disobedience.”

- What are his examples? Do these examples seem applicable to our culture? Do they seem applicable to you (in your thought life or practice)? What characterizes your joking? How do you talk with people who don't know the Lord?
- Paul used these examples because they were prevalent in the Greek culture. They were not only prevalent, but acceptable as part of their religious (and social) activity. Can you think of culturally acceptable activities today that would reflect the character of the “sons of disobedience?”
- The examples Paul gives point us to idolatry – the putting something above God in our pursuits. Paul lists examples that illustrate a “self-indulgence” – an attempt to gain joy or life in a way that serves to please self at the expense of other. According to verse 10, who should we seek to please?
- Rather than self-indulgence, Paul urges us to imitate God. In what way are we to imitate God? What impact does this have on others?

III. Children of Light

- What advantages does a child of God have over a child of disobedience?

Wrap-up

- What will you take away from Paul's teaching? What will characterize your walk? What is it you are pursuing?