Are You Walking In Your Father's Shoes?
Ephesians 5:1-21 (NKJV)

Please turn with me in your Bibles to our scripture text this evening in Ephesians the fifth chapter. And for now I would like for us to read verses 1-7.

Ephesians 5:1-7 (NKJV)

1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

P R A Y E R
INTRODUCTION

As children, we all loved to imitate our dad's didn't we?

As you know, my father was a minister. And when I was young, my brother Rick and my sister, Sherri and I would “play Church.” Sher would get a cardboard box and pretend to be the pianist. Rick would get a hymnbook and pretend to be the song leader. And I would get a Bible and stand on the second or third step of our stairway in our home and pretend to be the preacher. I don't remember anything I said in those childhood sermons I preached, but I do remember I tried to preach them just like dad. I imitated his strong, powerful voice and the hand gestures I had seen him make in the pulpit.

As I look back on it now, I think even at that young age, I had a strong sense in my heart that I would one day follow in my dad's shoes and become a preacher.

Speaking of shoes, did you ever put on a pair of your dad's shoes when you were little? If you were like me, you soon learned how big your dad's shoes were and how tough it was to fill those shoes, not to mention how difficult it was to walk in them.

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In our scripture text this evening, the apostle Paul is admonishing us to “Walk in our Father's shoes.”

Verse 1 “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”

In verses 2-21, Paul reveals three ways you and I should “Walk In Our Heavenly Father's Shoes.”

First of all if we are “walk in our Father's shoes”........

I. We Must Walk In LOVE (vs. 1,2)

1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

1. When Paul says, “walk in love” he's talking about godly love........agape' love. He's talking about the kind of love that is willing to GIVE------and willing to SERVE others no matter what the personal cost.

2. To show us the kind of love we should imitate, Paul gives us the greatest role model of godly love who ever lived, and that is Jesus.

V.2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given
Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

3. When we “walk in our Father’s shoes” we follow the example of Christ. That means we LOVE others whether they ask for our love or not. It means we LOVE others whether they deserve to be loved or not, because that is how Jesus Christ loved others.

4. Perhaps one of the greatest demonstrations Jesus ever gave us of God's love involved Judas Iscariot. That night in the Upper Room, Jesus washed His disciples' feet, all of His disciples' feet, including the feet of Judas.

And how did Judas repay Jesus for His loving service that night? Judas used his fresh washed feet to march out of the Upper Room and go out and betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

JESUS KNEW JUDAS WAS GOING TO DO THAT, DIDN'T HE? And yet Jesus still washed his feet. Jesus still loved him.

5. That’s the kind of love we are to imitate if we are to “walk in our Father's shoes.” When someone hurts your feelings.....LOVE THEM! When someone takes advantage of you.....LOVE THEM! When someone doesn't like you....LOVE THEM! When someone mistreats you.......LOVE THEM!
6. Brothers and sisters, if you are not walking in LOVE, then you're not walking in your Father's shoes.

I JOHN 4:7,8 (NKJV) Beloved, let us LOVE ONE ANOTHER for LOVE is of GOD; and everyone who LOVES is born of GOD and knows GOD. He who does NOT love does not know GOD, for GOD is love.

I JOHN 4:20, 21 (NKJV) If someone says, “I LOVE GOD,” and yet hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love GOD whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves GOD must love his brother also.”

7. Yes, if we are to “Walk in our Father's Shoes,” WE MUST WALK IN LOVE!

Secondly, if we are “Walk In Our Father's Shoes”........

II. We Must **WALK** In The **LIGHT** (vs. 8-14)

8 For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

10 ding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather
expose them.

even to speak of those things which are done

given by them in secret.

are made manifest by the light,

for whatever makes manifest is light.

14 Therefore He says:

"Awake, you who sleep,
Arise from the dead,
And Christ will give you light."

1. I want you to pay very close attention to Paul's wording in verse 8. Notice he doesn't say, "You used to be in the darkness, and now you are in the light.” He says, “For you once WERE DARKNESS, but now YOU ARE LIGHT in the LORD.”

2. To go from BEING DARKNESS to BEING LIGHT can only happen by the supernatural, transforming power of God.

3. Before you and I accepted Christ WE WERE DARKNESS. We were SPIRITUALLY BLIND. We not only didn't see “the light” of God's glory and His truth, we had no desire to see such things. We LIVED in darkness. We LOVED darkness! We enjoyed the EVIL DEEDS of darkness. We were DARKNESS in the flesh.

4. But when we came to know Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, God transformed us from DARKNESS into LIGHT. We were no longer spiritually blind. We could see the light of God's glory and His truth. And because we are now LIGHT, we are to “walk in
the LIGHT” and hate the deeds of darkness.

5. In VERSE 9 we see three things that will be evident in our lives that reveals we are truly “walking in the LIGHT.”

(a) First, if we are truly walking in the LIGHT GOODNESS will be evident in our lives.

GOD is GOOD and if “we are walking in our Father's shoes” His goodness will be seen in our lives. That “goodness” will be evident in the way we are concerned for the well-being of others, and not just concerned with our own well-being.

(b) Secondly, if we are truly walking in the LIGHT, RIGHTEOUSNESS will be evident in our lives. Righteousness means to conform our lives to God's righteous standards, to do what is RIGHT in God's eyes, not what is right in our own eyes.

(c) And thirdly, if we are truly walking in the LIGHT, TRUTH will be evident in our lives. We will BELIEVE the truth of God's word. We will LIVE by the truth of God's word. We will SPEAK the truth of God's word. We will DEFEND the truth of God's word.
6. You see, you and I can't claim to be “walking in our Father's shoes” if we are still walking in darkness. We can't be “walking in our Father's shoes” if we are doing things that displease Him and dishonor Him and disobey Him.

7. If we are to “walk in our Father's shoes,” we must “walk in the LIGHT, as He is in the LIGHT, and then we will have fellowship with one another.

If we are to “WALK IN OUR FATHER'S SHOES”

.....We must WALK IN LOVE!
......We must WALK IN THE LIGHT!

And thirdly........

III. We Must **WALK** In **WISDOM** (vs.15-21)

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,
19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 

20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 

21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

1. Notice Paul says in verse 15, “See then that you walk circumspectly.”

What does “circumspectly” mean? It comes from two Latin words, “circum” meaning “round,” and “spectus,” meaning, “spectacles” or “glasses.” And so to “walk circumspectly” means to “Look closely at what’s going on around you”.......

“keep your eyes open!”.......”watch where you are going,”

WALK IN WISDOM!

2. If you and I are to “walk in wisdom” we must be aware that our TIME here on earth is short. Paul says in verse 16, “Redeem the time!”

Brothers and sisters, you and I need to have the WISDOM to know there is always just one step between us and eternity. We need to have the WISDOM to know that in the “twinkling of an eye” we can leave this world by death or by the return of Christ.

WISDOM should tell us we don't have TIME TO WASTE ON THE PLEASURES OF SIN. WISDOM should tell us
we don't have TIME TO BE IN LOVE WITH THE WORLD
and THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD. WISDOM should tell
us we will one day give an account of our lives to GOD!

3. Yes, if we are going to “walk in our Father's
shoes” we must WALK IN WISDOM!

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CONCLUSION

ILLUSTRATION

I remember as a child putting on a pair of my dad's cowboy boots one
time. Dad's boots were so BIG on me the tops of the boots almost
completely covered my whole legs.

Trying to WALK IN MY FATHER'S BOOTS was very difficult.
In fact, I stumbled and fell a number of times. But then
my dad came and took me by the hand and helped me
to walk in his big boots, and then it didn't seem so impossible
any more.

Walking in our heavenly Father's shoes is often overwhelming.
How do we walk in the shoes of someone who is so perfect,
so holy, and so righteous? We can't do it by ourselves.

That's why our heavenly Father reaches out to take us by the hand to
help us walk in His shoes.

Let us WALK IN LOVE! Let us WALK IN THE LIGHT! Let us
WALK IN WISDOM!
LET US WALK IN OUR FATHER'S SHOES!