

THE ANATOMY OF A CHRISTIAN STEWARD

X. Legs That Walk

Ephesians 5:1-16

A major league outfielder who was a committed Christian said to his manager Earl Weaver, "Earl, aren't you glad I walk with the Lord?"

Weaver replied, "I'd rather you walk with the bases loaded!"

Fortunately we can do both. We can walk with the Lord, and walk with Him in our vocation – our calling. In fact the word "walk" is one of the most frequently used terms to describe a Christian's conduct.

In Ephesians 5 the Holy Spirit challenges us as Christians to:

Walk In Love – verse 2 says, "and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice."

If our walk does not reflect our talk, we fail to represent our Savior.

A soldier charged with cowardice in battle was brought before Alexander the Great. The great general asked him his name. The soldier answered, "Alexander, sir." To which the general replied, "Soldier, either change your ways, or change your name."

Walk In Light – verse 8 exhorts us to "walk as children of light."

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). When we walk with Jesus we are walking in the light. How rewarding this can be but how revealing it becomes.

It's when we compare ourselves with perfection that we really see ourselves. I may think I am a good golfer until I compare myself with Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, or Tiger Woods. I realize then how far short I fall.

It is true in every area of Christian living. We fall short in our loving, our faithfulness, our giving, our serving. We all need to "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18).

Walk In Loyalty – Ephesians 5:15 demands that we "walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time." The idea here is that we must walk carefully and faithfully.

Anyone who has traveled overseas has noticed the tall brick or concrete walls surrounding houses and commercial buildings. They are there for security reasons. Many are six, eight, even ten feet tall, and a foot or more thick. Frequently concrete is poured on top and before it hardens, broken pieces of glass are embedded in it. These jagged pieces keep burglars from climbing the wall.

Once as I looked out my hotel window in Jerusalem I saw a cat walking very carefully across the wall - cautiously placing each foot to avoid harm from the sharp glass. It is this idea that the scripture is talking about. We must walk carefully, avoiding all that is harmful to our Christian life and influence.

We must be careful also about why we walk not just how and where. This has to do with our motives.

Leo Tolstoy, in his story, "How Much Land Does a Man Need?" told of a man who went to a distant country where the headman of a tribe offered him, for a sum of money, all the land he could walk around in a day. The man was told to put his money down on a certain spot and then walk until sunset. When he returned to his money, all lands enclosed by the path of his steps were to be his. So the man started, hurrying as fast as possible and returning after great exertion to the point of departure. But the task had been too great for him, and he fell dead where he had begun. In the end, he needed only six feet of ground. The rest was of no use to him.

When the desire to possess is so great that it demands our life, our priorities are twisted. There is something terribly wrong when our possessions dominate us – even own us.

When we walk in love, in light and in loyalty to Christ we will recognize the importance of where and why we walk. We will hear Him say, "Come, follow Me" – and we will. Walking in His footsteps will lead to joy, happiness and peace. It will also lead to the sacrifice of our life – our time, talent and treasure.

We cannot look at the cross of the Christ, see our own sins crucifying the Savior; hear Him say – "Thy sins be forgiven" – without crying out, "The love of Christ constrains me." We cannot help but fall at His feet in surrender "All that I am I give to you. All that you have given me, I give back to you this day."

Father, help me to walk in love as You did long ago.