

Walk Carefully
Ephesians 5:15-21

Introduction

Look carefully then how you walk... 5:15

1. ENVIRONMENTS for careful walking

Walking alone

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called...Eph 4:1

Walking in the dark

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. Eph 4:17-18

Walking in community

... walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Eph 4:1-3

2. The PROCESS of careful walking

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. Eph 4:14,15

if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. James 1:5

3. INSTRUCTIONS for careful walking

A. Careful walking is consistently making wise choices. 5:15,16
not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

B. Careful walking is knowing and following God's will. 5:17
Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

C. Careful walking utilizes the right kind of power. 5:18-21
And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

APPLICATION

Walking alone -

Walking in the dark -

Walking in community –

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever slipped and fallen? What happened and why?
- How would you define “unwise” versus “foolish”? Share one of the times you made a decision that was one or both of these.
- Read Proverbs 4:10-15. How does wisdom from God guide our “steps”? Share a time you were guided by God's wisdom.
- Are there any situations you are in right now where you are “playing it safe” in a way that shows you might not be trusting God?
- Look up Isaiah 52:7. What does this verse indicate might be the right time to get up on a “mountain”, that is, to take a risk?
- Think of an environment you are “walking” in right now where you need wisdom from God. Pray James 1:5 for each other and for yourself.