I. Slide1 Announce:
A. Slide2-5 Larry: Chick-Fil-A. Harvest. Women’s Mtg. REAL.
B. Slide6 Children at Risk
C. Slide7 Men’s Fight Club - Tues Night.
D. Prayer: Careless sin quickly gets out of control and does more damage than we can imagine. (Like a match to dry grass. What starts as playing around, ends up ruining many lives)

II. Slide8a Intro: Live a Life of Love
A. Paul intended that these exhortations guide believers into patterns of wise living. He wanted them to develop the following qualities in their Christian lives.
B. (1) Here Paul launches us to the highest standard possible…Be imitators of God…means imitators, mimics. [pres tense continuous, ongoing action]
   1. But how can finite human beings imitate an infinite God?
   2. If we are called to be God copiers, then What does a God copier look like? What needs to be done? We do it by...
C. Paul starts by commanding, not suggesting, that believers imitate God in how they treat one another.
   1. It doesn’t say that 2nd part in vs.1? No, but it starts w/the word therefore...so see 4:32.
D. Slide9a In 1820, Charles Caleb Colton coined the phrase that states: Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.
   1. Slide9b 3 Jn11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. He who does good is from God, but he who does evil has not seen God.
E. The term Imitator was understood by Paul’s readers. Imitation was the main part of the training of an orator. The teachers of rhetoric declared that the learning of oratory depended on 3 things: theory, imitation, and practice. The main part of their training was the study and the imitation of the Masters who had gone before.
1. So Paul is saying to train as an orator, you would imitate the masters of speech. Since you are training in life imitate the Lord of all good life.

III. Slide10a WALK IN LOVE (2)

A. Walk - to conduct one’s life in a certain way. We look like God the most when we give to him our very best.

1. What you are is God's gift to you. What you make of yourself is your gift to God

2. Slide10b So the beauty of a journey is every step you take, not necessarily getting to your final destination.
   a) Slide10c People love the outcome. God loves the process (every step of the journey)
   b) Eg. As a culture we love to spend a lot of money on the wedding and hardly anything on the marriage.

   (1) If an average wedding in the US is $26,640 (Aug.2016). Then, I’d love to see a couple spend $6000 on it and then invest $20,000 into their marriage. [i.e. on Couples retreat’s, marriage conferences, weekend getaways, marriage books to read, etc.]

B. Walk in love is living a life of love. It’s a daily behavior.

C. You’ve heard of the duck test...it is a term for a form of abductive reasoning (a form of logical inference which starts with an observation then seeks to find the simplest and most likely explanation).

1. It goes like this...If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it probably is a duck.

2. The test implies that a person can identify an unknown subject by observing that subject’s habitual characteristics.
   a) So, if your life looks like a Jesus Follower, walks like a Jesus Follower, & sounds like a Jesus Follower, then you’re probably a Jesus follower.

D. Christ provides the model for how Christians are to live in love; His sacrificial death is the definition of love.

E. This description of Christ’s death draws on language from the sac system in the OT.

F. Christ loved us & gave His life for us. Like the story of a soldier that was wounded so badly he had to get an amputation. The surgeon after the surgery said to him: "I am sorry
to tell you that you have lost your arm." "Sir," said the lad, "I did not lose it; I gave it - for my country." Christ did not lose His life, He gave His life for us.

1. The description of Christ's death uses language from the sac system in the OT
2. Offering – products from the field [what the worshiper brings to God]
3. Sacrifice – animals from the flock [refers to the sacrificing of animals]
5. An offering & a sacrifice always speaks of a cost. Love costs!
   a) There is always a tremendous price to pay for freedom.
   b) With love there is always sacrifice. Always a cost.

IV. Slide11a WALK IN PURITY (3-7)

A. The right kind of love implies that we hate certain things.
   1. Rom.12:9 Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

B. Slide11b Paul doubles back & attacks the sins of the pagan world.
   1. 1st sins of sexual immorality (3).
   2. 2nd sins of conversation (4).

C. (3) Fornication (porneia, refers to any kind of sexual immorality)
   1.Uncleanness (a broader term for impurity).
   2. Covetousness (greediness, often used to describe uncontrolled sexual desire)

D. (4) Filthy talk - Obscenities. Shameful, filthy, or obscene speech.
      a) Which do you think God hears? When you give thanks before your meal...or when you complain about everything you were served?

E. (5) Paul underscores the seriousness of this kind of behavior by saying (read vs.5).
   1. Obviously there is forgiveness to one who falls to one of these...he's speaking about anyone who does this habitually with an unrepentant heart.
V. Slide12a WALK IN LIGHT (8-14)

A. (8) You were once darkness...not were in darkness.
   1. How to know if you are walking in darkness: when you hide (erasing your history on your computer, why?), lie (what are you covering), or blame someone else (1st thing adam/eve did when they 1st walk in darkness. Its my x-wife, its my lousy kids, its my impatient boss, its my...).
   2. Its when you’re not allowing light to expose something.

B. Children of light - If God is light then naturally His children would be also.
   1. Slide12b Think purity, not lumens. Think spiritual light not phys light.
   2. Its hard to walk in light, in a dark world.

C. Light produces Good Fruit (9)
   1. Here are some of the products of light (goodness, righteousness, truth).
   2. Walking in the light produces spiritual fruit.

D. Light Exposes Motives (10)
   1. Light enables the Christian to discriminate between what is pleasing & what is not pleasing. Shepherds Notes, pg.60.
   2. Here is where all motives, attitudes, & actions must be tested.
   3. We are to find out what pleases the Lord.
      a) Just find out what’s acceptable to the Lord. (i.e. not to others)

E. Light Exposes Evil (11,12)
   1. Light exposes the unfruitful works of darkness.
   2. Evil activity, when dragged into the light of Christ, is seen for what it is & dies a natural death. Slide12c [the story of the woman caught (in the very act) of adultery, is really the story of the men (Scribes/Pharisees) caught in hypocrisy]
      a) Do you know when that story was over in Jn.8:11 what the very next verse reads? Jn.8:12 Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.

F. Light Cleanses/Exposes (13,14)
1. The light cannot *compromise* with the darkness; it can only *expose* it.

2. *Awake you sleeper, arise from the dead* - this is not a direct quote from any OT passage. Or, he also might be borrowing from an early Christian hymn or traditions related to baptism. [Paul might be alluding to Job 14:12 or Isa 26:19, 61:1]

**VI. Slide13a WALK CAREFULLY (15-17)**

A. (15) *Circumspectly* – accurately, carefully, intelligently. *Carries the idea of looking around carefully so as not to stumble.*
   
   1. Have you ever *not turned on the light at night* & then ended up *catching your baby toe* on the corner of something?
      
      a) We need to take advantage of the light He has given us.
   
   2. It means, walking *intelligently* and not in ignorance.
   
   3. *Instead of walking accurately/carefully*, they miss the mark, miss the road, & end up suffering on some detour.

B. Slide13b (16) *Redeeming the time* – buy up the opportunities.

   1. The idea here is not clock time but what one writer calls *kingdom opportunities*.
      
      a) Those openings for ministry that often come at *inconvenient times*: a friend who wants to talk; a child with a problem; the chance to lend a hand to someone in need.
   
   2. Slide13c Paul is encouraging us to keep our lives *uncluttered* so that we can respond when the need arises - because *kingdom opportunities* can get squeezed out of an *overly tight schedule*.
      
      a) And do not waste *time, energy, money & talent* in that which is *apart* from His will. *Lost opportunities may never be regained*; they might be *gone forever*.
   
   3. This is the bible’s *Carpe Diem* statement (seize the day) "*Seize the day boys! Make your lives extraordinary*" Robin Williams, The Dead Poet Society

C. (17) *Will of the Lord* - Only after 1 understands what pleases God *(vs.1)* can he carry it out in his life.

   1. Slide13d Understand His *Word* & you’ll understand His *Will*.

**VII. Slide14a WALK FILLED (18-21)**
A. (18) Let’s step back to *Ephesus* in Paul’s day…

1. **Dionysus** (Di-on-I-sus), in Greek mythology, god of wine and vegetation, who showed mortals how to cultivate grapevines and make wine.
   
a) He eventually became the popular Greek god of wine and cheer, & wine miracles were reputedly performed at certain of his festivals.

2. The divine mission of Dionysus was to *mingle the music of the flute* and to bring an end to care and worry.

3. Slide14b Key: The worshippers of Dionysus felt they were *united, indwelled & controlled by Dionysus, who gave them special powers & abilities.*
   
a) Thus, to be filled/controlled with wine or the Spirit was the *contrast.*
   
b) The indwelling Spirit of God should *continually control & dominate* the life of the believer. [present tense calls for the continual & habitual action]

B. Be filled with the Spirit - in the Gk text of Ephesians, this **command** provides the basis for Paul’s statements in v.19-21, **all of which** describe the outworking of being filled with the Spirit.

C. An example of **being filled**…

1. How can you get the air out of a drinking glass? You can suck it out with a pump, but that creates a vacuum and you’ll shatter it. The easier way is take a pitcher of water and fill the glass with it. *Thus removing all the air.* Victory for the child of God does not come by *working hard to eliminate sinful habits*, but rather by Slide14c allowing the Holy Spirit to take full possession.

D. (19) **Psalms** – the songs of Israel in the OT.

E. **Hymns** – obviously not the Hymns sung today…because they weren’t around then. They were *new songs* of the Christian faith.

F. **Spiritual songs** – songs shared among the believers to praise God with them.

   1. This praise was to be accompanied with thanksgiving.

G. (21) Submitting to one another…in that we **all** have to submit to **somebody**.

   1. I believe the following passages defines what he means by this.
   
   2. The section concludes in chapter 6:9. [submission: wife/husband; child to parent; bondservant to master]
a) There must be *harmony, submission, & love*...in each of these relationships...in the fear of God (a fear of *profound respect* for someone or something).

b) And the secret to this harmony will be us being *habitually* filled/controlled w/the Sp.

c) Slide14d To be *filled* with the Spirit of God is to be controlled by the Word of God

d) **That** is what is going to save our *marriages, families, & work environments*.

e) It will be from a *power* within not *pressure* from *without*.

f) **Thus** the **marks** of the *Spirit-filled believer* are not unusual emotional experiences, miracles & tongues, **but rather** Christian character.