

When I was young, I had a condition (overpronation) that required me to wear special shoes. These were built up on one side of the heel so my feet would be forced to grow straight. It was very embarrassing since my twin brother didn't have to wear these. He got to wear loafers and tennis shoes. I could not until I was 15. I will always remember the desire to walk, run and do what the other kids could do, but I had to wear these special shoes. They were a hindrance to me. They were need to keep my feet straight, but still kept me from enjoying life as I should have. Paul tells us the same thing here. If we do not live life as we should, He will put things in our lives that will not allow us to fully enjoy life, but are there to keep us straight.

1. We are to imitate Christ – vs. 1 Often Paul tells us to imitate Christ. Jesus even told us to imitate and be like Him. Verse 1 starts off with “Therefore”. And we all know if we see the word “therefore” we ask the question, “What is it therefore?” It is a tall order to be like Christ. There are so many attributes that He has that we just can't do.
2. We are to walk in love – vs. 2 The commandment to “walk in love” is one that is repeated several times over in scripture. We are to be just like Christ in how we live. How we talk, how we interact with others and how we show that love. Christ said, “you will know my disciples by their love for one another”. (John 13:35) We are supposed to love one another just as Christ love you, and died for you. Now I don't know about you, but that is a tough assignment. Christ did two things here for us.
 - a. Gave Himself up for us as an offering – that is He willingly died to self and put the needs of others ahead of His own. Remember when Jesus was in the garden He prayed to have this “cup” taken away? That was Jesus asking the Father if there was any other way. And when he was on the cross, the Bible says He could have called ten-thousand angels to get Him down and squash His enemies.
 - b. Sacrificed for us as a fragrant aroma – Anytime we give of ourselves and sacrifice for others, we please God. (Phil. 4:18) Just as the best way and most fragrant way to smell a rose is to crush it.

3. We are to live Godly pure lives – vs. 3-4 Here Paul tells us just what it takes to live a Holy, Pure, and Godly life. He specifically mentions 6 things.
- a. No immorality - the quality, character, or state of being immoral; immoral behavior, especially in sexual matters; licentiousness; promiscuity - **indiscriminate** or confusing sexual acts
 - b. No impurity - mixed with another, usually **inferior** to; adulterated; sinful;
 - c. No greed - An **excessive desire** to acquire or possess more than what one needs or deserves
 - d. No filthiness – obscene, **vile, nasty**. Usually excessive
 - e. No silly talk - fatuous, **foolish**, frivolous, **inappropriate**, inept, ludicrous, absurd, superficial, vacuous
 - f. No coarse jesting – funny, **amusing**, comical, joking,