

which to delight, and upon which to meditate—as well we might—by day and by night! And how the Father addresses Himself to our hearts! He calls us *dear* children (Eph. v. 1). What affection! And as dear children we are to be imitators of Him, that thus the Father might be glorified by us. Thus He addresses His whole family, and tells us how to walk. But, I do not walk in order to have the Father call me His dear child, but because He has Himself placed me in that relationship; and that, not because of my behaviour, but, “having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, *according to the good pleasure of His will*” (Eph. i. 5). Thus He has a Father’s right to be heard in His family circle as a whole, and He has also His voice for each dear child, in whatever position such may be placed. He consequently looks into our dwellings, and there addresses the wives, the husbands, the children, the fathers, the servants, the masters, and again His whole family circle (Eph. v. and vi.).

In chap. v., having told us how to walk, He plainly intimates what is unbecoming and not to be once named among us; and, while we are all agreed that two of the things specified are of a gross character, yet we do well to note the company in which the third thing is placed, see third verse: “Fornication and all uncleanness or *covetousness*.” Read 4th and 5th verses likewise, and note that, while the first two ugly things are again mentioned in verse five, the third is also again