

Ephesians Chapter 5

In chapter 5, Paul talks about the things Christians shouldn't partake in. This letter reminds us to follow God's example and to walk in the way of love. This letter also instructs us on how a Christian house should function. God has put us onto this earth for a reason. He has prepared certain good deeds, missions if you will, which He wants us to accomplish for Him. Every day is an opportunity to fulfill the missions God has for us to perform.

Session Goal:

- To teach us to follow Christ's example of love (1-2)
- Remind us to stay far away from all immorality and impurity (3-6)
- Remind us to be children of light, not of darkness (7-14)
- To learn to walk as wise men (15-18)
- To have deep fellowship with one another (19-21)
- To teach husband and wives be subject to each other and love each other (22-30)
- To see how Christ views marriage in general (31-33)

Key Scripture: Read verses 8-10.

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord.

As you watched the video, think about these questions:

- As you reflect on the sermon this week, how did the Holy Spirit speak to your heart?
- What did we learn from Ephesians Chapter 5?
- What personal implications did the sermon have for you?

Teaching points of Chapter 5:

- 1-6: Paul is giving a list of things that believers should abstain from doing. Sexual impurity, covetousness, foolish talk, and crude joking are all things that Christians should fight from partaking in. But rather thanksgiving.
- 7-16: Paul is telling us to not become partners with them (that is, in their sin). Instead, Christians are to walk as children of light, striving to please the Lord in their actions.
- 22-24: Notice that this verse is not saying all women should submit to all men, it is strictly speaking in terms of the marriage relationship. These verses also do not say women have less value than men (Galatians 3:26 shows us we are all equal before the

Lord!). Instead, it is saying that wives should respect the leadership of their husbands as the church follows the leadership and headship of Christ.

- 25-29: Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. This does not just mean sacrificing your life for your wife's life in a dangerous situation. It means sacrificing your wants and needs for hers. As the leader of the family, if the husband does this well, the wife will much more willingly want to submit to his headship.
- 31-32: Marriage, in a mysterious way, displays the relationship between Christ and the church.

Group Discussion Questions:

- How can we emulate God? What aspects of God should we emulate?
- How can we walk in love? Why is Jesus' love the ultimate example?
- What is the difference in how unwise men and wise men live?
- How can we understand what the will of the Lord is?
- We cannot forget that we are all sinners and cannot consistently live the Christian life without the help of the Holy Spirit. How often do you ask for the Spirit's guidance and help in your life?
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- The idea of submission/headship is a touchy subject in our society today. Especially with so many broken homes and with so few people seeing a marriage like this done well. However, the marriage relationship in a mysterious way, represents Christ's relationship to the church. Therefore, 1) How can and should husbands practically love their wife and put her first? 2) How can wives respect their husbands, and what does it look like to submit to his headship in a healthy way?

Conclusion: We are working on building a church that family orientated, multigenerational and multiethnic. And while teaching individuals how to love themselves, each other, and the community, we must understand that people will make mistakes. Short comings are a part of our nature, but we must learn to love each other through our short comings and up lift one another

Final thought: Have you ever had someone (a boss, mentor, teacher, parent, etc.) that you gladly followed because you knew they loved and wanted what was best for you? What was it about them that made you want to follow and trust them? Are you in a position to be the person someone wants to follow?

