

Eph 5:1-14

1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Review:

- we are a new creation in Christ.
- We are to walk worthy of our calling
- Walk worthy - to weigh the same as
- Don't grieve the Holy Spirit.

The Ephesian church was far from perfect.

Eph 4:29-32

- lie no longer, don't steal, don't let any corrupt words come out of your mouth then he said in verses 31-32 of chapter 4, let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and evil speaking be put away from you with all bad behavior.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

- Christ wants to return to a faithful church, a pure church

In Eph 5 Paul encourages the church to

- "walk in love, light and wisdom

Eph 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

To imitate is to follow as a pattern.

Children tend to follow their parents, they want to mimic them.

The greatest example God gave us to follow is love.

Eph 5:2

2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us (unconditional love) and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

What does unconditional love look like?

Matt 5:44

44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Three attributes of God in this chapter are,

- walkin in love
- walking as children of light.
- walking in wisdom!

Christ's love for us is unconditional and sacrificial.

John 15:9

9 As the Father loved me, I also have loved you; abide in my love.

A father's love for his children never ends.

To abide means to remain as in remaining in one place.

Why would anyone leave someone that loves them!

People know we are His disciples by our love for one another.

The Thessalonian church was taught by God to love one another.

Paul says that Jesus gave Himself for us to God

- for a sweet-smelling aroma.

In the OT a burnt sacrifice was often offered up to God in the form of a goat or a bull.

This conveyed the message of total surrender to the Lord.

Symbolically, God was smelling and receiving that sacrifice.

Jesus Himself became that sacrifice for us for the remission of our sins.

Paul said to the Philippians that everything he'd received was a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God.

Eph 5:3

3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

Ephesus was sin city hence Paul warned the Gentiles coming out of that atmosphere not to consider returning to that lifestyle.

This list of sins before us are all selfish,

- what's in it for me!

Eph 5:4-7

4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Don't go back to the filth.

Don't even talk about things you once did is what Paul was telling the Ephesians.

We have a choice in what we allow out of our mouth.

Don't get involved in or even laugh at jokes

- that are lined with bad behavior.

That Psalmist said in chapter 119 that God's word is very pure, therefore your servant loves it.

When we love God's word others notice.

In verses 5-7 Paul gives us two reasons to abstain from the afore mentioned sins.

5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater (they've substituted God with these sins), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Both Eph 5:5 and Col 3:5 relate covetous and covetousness to the sinful deeds of the body,

Col 3:5

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Paul said to the Corinthians, such as were some of you but now you're washed.

- So thank God for His grace and mercy
- and that He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin
- and to cleans us from all unrighteousness.

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Paul goes from the sins of passion to the sins of the tongue.

- He mentions deceit in the same sentence as empty words.

Job's closing words in chapter 21 to his three friends were that he had no confidence in what they said.

Job 21:34

34 How then can you comfort me with empty words,
Since falsehood remains in your answers?"

The Hebrew word for "falsehood" means:

- "a deliberate violation of God's Law, an act of treachery."

When they attacked Job,

- they were breaking faith
- and trespassing against God.

Paul says,

Let no one deceive you (lead you astray) with empty words.

- (this is speaking of people that are unwilling to be persuaded to do the right thing.)

We were once dead in our sin.

Eph 2:1-2

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

That was us at one time, but by God's grace

- He removed us from that life into a new life.

Eph 5:7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. (Don't do the things they do!)

Walk in Light

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

In 2 Cor 6:14-7:1 Paul explains the contrast between the child of God and the unsaved person.

2 Cor 6:14-18

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

"I will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people."

17 Therefore

"Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you."
18 'I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the Lord Almighty."

In Ephesians Paul says, "now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."

- we were once were as Paul says, "darkness."

Gen 1:3-4

3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. (this was on the first day)

On the fourth day God said,
In Gen 1:14-18

14 "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; 15 and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. 16 Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. 17 God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

For the first three days light shone from a source other than the sun.

That's the beginning of the book.

The end of the book, Revelations tells us:

Rev 22:5

5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

John said, the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
(Jn 1:5)

Jesus our light and darkness is spiritual ignorance

- to those who don't respond.

Hab 3:4

His brightness was like the light; He had rays flashing from His hand, And there His power was hidden.

“Light” in scriptures it always comes back to the creator.

Psa 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Back to verse 8 of Ephesians:

Paul says “you were once darkness,” not “in darkness.”

Genesis 1 says the earth was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.

Before God created,

- darkness was spread over the uninhabitable earth.
- This served to emphasize the emptiness.

Paul is saying, we were once empty.

Now we walk as children of light!

Verse 8 tells us to live as children of light, verse 9 explains the reason for this and verses 10 - 14 explain how to do that.

Why live as children of light?

9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness (godlike), righteousness (living an obedient life, keeping God's word), and truth (meaning no hypocrisy),

A person clinging to Christ will bear fruit.

Eph 5:10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

How do we know what is acceptable to the Lord?

- We test and approve.

Paul said something similar in his letter to the Romans:

Rom 12:2

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

Stop sharing in the deeds of darkness!

Rather, he says, expose them!

The word of God reveals our sin to us.

- The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin.

Ultimately, it's God's goodness leads people to repentance.

Jesus said in:

John 12:46

46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

Eph 5:12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

This is similar to the warning Paul gave in verse 3:

Don't even let fornication, uncleanness or covetousness be named among you.

Though this is the primary reference of this verse, it applies to any sin.

Acts 5

Peter rebuked Ananias and Sapphira because they lied to the Holy Spirit and tested the Spirit, indicating they were playing games with God.

Knowing the sin some of the people in the Ephesian church were coming out of,

- Paul says it was shameful to even speak of
- those things done in secret.

13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

14 Therefore He says:

"Awake, you who sleep,
Arise from the dead,
And Christ will give you light."

Paul now contrasts the way of the fool with the way of the wise.

Ps 14:1

14 The fool has said in his heart,
"There is no God."

I've said before that the original text reads:
The fool has said in his heart,
No God!

Eph 5:15-21

15 See then that you walk circumspectly (to look around), not as fools but as wise,

When you were a child, you were told to be on guard!

Don't walk around as fools but as wise,
If we were to ask a non-believer what a fool is, they'd say something like, "a fool is someone that doesn't make wise choices."

13341. Bargain For One More Hour

According to a newspaper article two men, William Bell and Jacob Rosenwasser, who were under sentence of death at Ossining, New York, felt that they would be deprived of an hour of life if they were electrocuted on daylight saving time, and so they applied to the warden to have the clock in the death house returned to standard time. How precious even an hour may be under certain circumstances!

It is said that when Queen Elizabeth of England was dying she exclaimed, "All my possessions for a moment of time!"

But time cannot be bribed even by a monarch. If the two men who are pleading for an additional hour of life had always made a proper use of the time at their disposal the probability is that they would be little concerned now about the additional hour to which they think they are entitled.¹

The fool says in his heart, no God!

Biblically speaking, foolishness and wisdom is related to a person's knowledge of God.

16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

¹ Tan, P.L. (2004) [Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations: Signs of the Times](#). WORDsearch.

When a person is drunk, they are under the influence. So Paul says, don't be drunk with wine, but be filled with the Spirit.

This is in the present tense meaning to do this daily, be filled daily!!!

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.