

**Opening:** In Ephesians 5 Paul lays out clear instructions for Christian conduct in the world we are living in. It can be a challenge to exemplify all of these characteristics but through the power of the Holy Spirit we can. The next few verses are a challenge from Heaven to allow Christ to truly transform each believer to who He has created them to be.

**Scripture: Ephesians 5:1-16** 1Be imitators of God, therefore, as beloved children, 2and walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant sacrificial offering to God. 3But among you, as is proper among the saints, there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed. 4Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or crude joking, which are out of character, but rather thanksgiving. 5For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure, or greedy person (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. 7Therefore do not be partakers with them. 8For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, 9for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. 10Test and prove what pleases the Lord. 11Have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that is illuminated becomes a light itself. 14So it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." 15Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

1. **Ephesians 5:1-2** 1Be imitators of God, therefore, as beloved children, 2and walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant sacrificial offering to God.

**a. Walk as Jesus walked because you are beloved children.**

- i. I can find the motivation to live like Christ when I can settle in the truth that I am His beloved one.
- ii. Love is a powerful motivation. Since I am loved by God, I must give myself back to the one who loves me.

**b. And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant sacrificial offering to God.**

- i. Jesus lived a laid down life, He gave His life in surrender to the will of His Father
  - ii. “Just as” God has not called us to do something that is impossible. We can imitate God if we try.
  - iii. Our first act of worship to God and the one we never graduate from is living a pure life before Jesus.
- c. Do not forget that the first steps we take on our road to building a new life in and through Jesus are often the hardest ones. It gets easier, do not give up!**
- i. You are going to be tempted to leave Jesus, you will make mistakes, you will stumble you will sin, do not quit running your race.

2. **Ephesians 5:3-4** 3But among you, as is proper among the saints, there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed. 4Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or crude joking, which are out of character, but rather thanksgiving.

**a. There is a clear difference between a Christian and an unbeliever.**

**b. “ a hint of sexual immorality”** the Apostle Paul warns the body of Christ that sexual immorality should have no place

in the life of the believer. If you were promiscuous before you met Jesus that should not continue now that you are claiming Christ.

- i. What if it does?** There is a need for humility and true repentance. Seek help to get out of that bondage to sexual sin. Whatever you have to do, do it to be set free. God will help you to get out of an immoral relationship and He will give you strength and self-control through a close walk with Jesus.
- c. "Impurity or greed":** God is completely Holy and He has called His children to abandon the pursuit a pursuit of gain at all costs mentality. The Christian must only prosper by righteous and moral means because God is our ultimate provider.
  - i. Impurity:** To be impure is to mix what is pure and holy with that which is defiled. God is calling His people to cut away from things that corrupt our true nature in Christ. We were all born impure due to the fall of humanity. God's work is to purify His people.
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:2** I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. For I promised you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.
  - iii.** The type Paul uses is that of a kept bride for her wedding night. The Church is to be kept for Christ by not polluting itself with the evil things of this life.
- d. Obscenity:** offensive words of expression lending to foul, abusive, and swearing, repulsive language.
- e. Foolish talk or crude joking:** Wasted speech, irreverent speech, joking that is harsh and putting down of another, vulgar joking that lends itself to debasing or joking of

shameful practices. Eliciting laughter by crossing moral boundaries.

**f. Instead provide thanksgiving:** Instead of talking as the world does, let us be those who encourage, appreciate and honor others.

**3. Ephesians 5:5-7** For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure, or greedy person (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. **6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. **7** Therefore do not be partakers with them.

**a. You can be certain:** No one who is living a consistent, habitual life of immorality, impurity and greed has any inheritance in the Kingdom to come.

**i. The lost person who is outside of Christ will have nothing in the Kingdom to come.**

**ii. Consequently, the false believer, the hypocrite, and the unrepentant will also have nothing to inherit in the Kingdom to come.**

**iii. Paul is providing a stark warning to the Church to allow the Holy Spirit to crucify everything that is not of God within them because those sins of the past life must not be allowed to remain.**

1. Paul is not saying that the Christian may not from time-to-time stumble in sin, but they must not make a practice of it, remaining in it, enjoying it, and hiding in it, living a double life.

**b. Let no one deceive you:** Paul is telling the Church that some people will come along and make excuses for living in sin as if it is okay and acceptable for the Christian to continue in sin after receiving Christ.

- c. **Because of such things the wrath of God is coming:** The sins Paul has just mentioned and even more will bring about the judgement of God, Paul is reminding the Church that God hates sin and wants all of His people to be set free from sins power to control and dominate their lives.
- d. **Therefore, do not be partakers with them:** This is a call from Paul to stop fellowshiping in sin with those who continue in ignorance. Do not fellowship with the disobedient because you will share in the same fate as they do if you continue.
  - i. As Christian's there is a time to isolate yourself from all tempting relationships to pursue purity and wholeness in Jesus.

4. **Ephesians 5:8-11** 8For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, 9for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. 10Test and prove what pleases the Lord. 11Have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

- a. **For you were once darkness . . . . Past tense, we are no longer darkness.**
  - i. **If we are in Christ, we will no longer do the things we used to do.**
  - ii. Walk instead as children of light, without anything hidden, no reason to sneak around or to be ashamed. Nothing to hide any longer, transparent, open, and honest.
  - iii. **The reborn Christian is not running from accountability, humility and fears no closeness.**
  - iv. **John 3:21** But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

- b. Test and prove what is from the Lord: This means to discern the will of God and lean into what pleases God above all other things.
  - i. Sounds like Paul expected the Christian to take very seriously their faith, to be diligent in it and to treat it as the most treasured thing in their lives.
- c. Have no fellowship with darkness, expose it . . . as Christians we are opposed to evil and darkness because we know what lurks in the darkness. We now stand guard against the darkness shining God's light on the evil.
  - i. Christians should not participate in the form of evil that the world celebrates. We should be careful to submit our actions to the Lord to see if He is pleased. How? Let the word of God and peace of God guide you. The Holy Spirit will guide you and lead you into all truth, purity and righteousness.

5. **Ephesians 5:12-14** 12For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, **for everything that is illuminated becomes a light itself.** 14So it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

- a. God's holiness present in the believer will produce an intolerance for shameful things, it will irritate the believer to action.
- b. You have not only received the light, but you have also become the light yourself. Our presence in the same way irritates those who walk in darkness.
- c. Paul continues to encourage the Church that they are no longer darkness, but they are light because Christ who is the light of the world is now in and upon them.

6. **Ephesians 5:15-16** 15Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
- a. Since the world is evil, do not walk carelessly, use wisdom and discernment so you will not be tripped up.