

# EPHESIANS

5:1-17

## THE BATTLE TO BE GOOD PART 1

### THE BATTLE TO BE GOOD

(EPHESIANS 5:1-17; PART ONE)

When Paul penned the letter of Ephesians, he was writing to a church that, 2000 years ago, was located in one of the most spiritually degraded and sinfully degenerate cities on earth. Being a Christian in Ephesus was difficult and could be deadly dangerous. As a believer, you had to be constantly on the lookout for your life. The historical background on all this is can be read in [Acts 19](#). The Jewish synagogue in the city absolutely hated and misrepresented believers to everyone in town. Manufacturing jeweled idols of the pagan goddess Artemis and prostitution in her temple were the “BIG BUSINESS” enterprises of Ephesus. As a result, the chamber of commerce leaders banded together to persecute and kill Christians. Religious demonism and the practice of satanic witchcraft were pervasive as a way of life throughout the whole culture. Despite all of this, the Gospel took hold, and a church was miraculously born against all odds. However, in this incredibly wicked setting, followers of Jesus found it super hard to avoid getting caught up in all the sin around them. Hmm, sound familiar? I'd say it sounds exactly like life today! Check it out and thank God ... [Ephesians 5:1-17](#) provides Christians (both then and now) with God's strategy for winning *the battle to be good* against the constant onslaught of evil. It begins by understanding what *good* looks like and how *good* chooses to live.

### WINNING THE BATTLE TO BE GOOD

1. (v.1) Copy the ...
2. (v.1) See yourself as a ...
3. (v.2) Bring God's love ...

4. (v.2) Look to the Lord as ...

5. (v.2) “Get” ...

([Matthew 16:25](#)) A good life gives itself away ...

([Romans 12:1a](#)) A good life is an offering ...

([Romans 12:1b](#)) A good life sacrifices ...

6. (v.2) Smell ...

*It is God's will that by doing **good** you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. When it costs you for doing **good**, this finds great favor with God.*

([1 Peter 2:15,20](#))

### FOR THOUGHT & TALK

Take no more than 5 minutes to quickly review the main points from Pastor John's message. As you discuss the questions, don't expect to answer all of them. Just discuss the ones your group would most like to explore together. Remember, the goal of your small group is to grow together relationally, to **apply** God's Word to our daily living, and to pray for one another and our church.

1. Read aloud, aloud [Ephesians 5:1-17](#) from the NLT and the NASB. The entire passage deals with how believers are to conduct themselves for good in an evil world. Our focus in this message and in these questions deals only with [Ephesians 5:1-2](#).
2. Pastor John mentioned that the state of affairs in our world is causing many Christians to become *discouraged* (giving in to a doom and gloom outlook) or to become *defeated* (giving up and giving in to a sinful lifestyle). Why is it crucial that followers of Jesus recognize these tendencies as lies from Satan and not fall prey to thinking like this?
3. Why is it important that Christians be known for *the good we will do*, every bit as much as for *the evil we will not do*? Can you think of some concrete issues in life, and society, that demonstrate what believers won't do because it is wrong, but have countermeasures that believers will do because it is good?
4. What does the phrase “**counterculture Christianity**” mean to you? Pastor John quoted one of the early Church Fathers, Clement of Alexandria (150-215 AD) as saying, *The truly wise Christian practices being God*. What do you think that means and how does it relate to living as a countercultural Christian?
5. There were six principles highlighted from [Ephesians 5:1-2](#) that, when practiced as a lifestyle commitment, will help followers of Jesus do good and avoid evil. Which one or two of these Biblical concepts most connected with you and why?