



**Title: Ephesians - Love, Light and Wisdom**

**Scripture: Ephesians 5:1-21**

**Date: 03122023**

**Bible Version: NKJV**

**BOTTOM LINE: If we are children of God, then we need to walk in love, light, and wisdom.**

**Walk In Love. Vs. 1-2**

**Therefore be imitators of God-** Considering Chapter 4 and how believers are to relate to one another, Paul now calls us to be imitators of God. The idea behind imitators is to mimic God. He is to be our standard and example.

**Walk in love-** Paul calls us to walk in love. Jesus is our example of true love. He loved us and gave Himself for us. We too can walk like Jesus by simply serving others over ourselves.

*Jesus Christ is the model by which to pattern ourselves.- Tony Evans*

**An offering and a sacrifice to God-** Paul reminds us that Jesus was a perfect sacrifice that was pleasing to the Father. Just like Jesus, we should be a pleasing offering and sacrifice to God.

**Walk As Children of Light. Vs. 3-14**

**Vs. 3**

**But fornication and all uncleanness of covetousness, let it not even be named around you-** In contrast to the first 2 verses, Paul now tells us what not to do. Fornication describes sexual sin. Uncleanness has a broader meaning for immoral behavior. From a cultural perspective, the city of Ephesus was given over to sexual sin. Paul calls the Ephesians believers to not engage that lifestyle.

**As followers of Christ, we can't let the culture set the standard for us.**

### **Vs. 4-6**

**Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting-** Filthiness has the same meaning as uncleanness. Coarse jesting is the idea of inappropriate humor. Paul reminds us that these things are unfitting for saints.

*God's purpose in giving sex is not primarily for the gratification of the individual, but for the bonding together of husband and wife in a one-flesh relationship. - David Guzik*

**No fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolator, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God-** The idea here is that those mentioned in verse 3 do not have an inheritance in the kingdom of God. I believe this is because they are truly not saved. As believers we have been born again. As such, believers simply do not rest in the habitual practice of destructive sin.

*The constant moral appeal of the New Testament is simply this: be who you are in Jesus. - David Guzik*

### **Vs. 7-13**

**Therefore do not be partakers with them-** Paul calls on believers to not live a life that is marked by fornication, uncleanness, or covetousness. We should be careful, and not be doing life with those that are.

**You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.-** As followers of Christ, Paul reminds us that we were once in darkness but now we are to walk as children of light.

**The theme is pretty simple, if you are children of light, we need to live like we are.**

*We can't reflect his light unless we're in the light.- Tony Evans*

**Finding out what is acceptable to the Lord-** In lieu of pursuing what the world says is appealing, we would be better off searching and pursuing the things that are acceptable to the Lord.

**Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them-** Paul encourages the believer to bring forth the things that hide in the darkness to the light. We need to expose the dark areas in our lives.

**As believers we should bring the light of Christ into the darkness.**

**Vs. 14**

**Therefore-** Considering the 13 verses above, Paul now gives us a charge.

**He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light-** Paul calls us to wake up. You can have salvation, but if you don't really care about others or living your life in a way that brings light to the darkness, you are asleep.

*The man who is asleep does not care what becomes of his neighbors; how can he while he is asleep? And oh! Some of you Christians do not care whether souls are saved or damned...if they can attend a respectable place of worship and go with others to heaven, they are indifferent about everything else. - C.H. Spurgeon*

**If you are spiritually sleeping, it's time to get up and let the light shine.**

**Walk In Wisdom. Vs. 15-17**

**See then that you walk circumspectly-** We are called to carefully consider and weigh out the possibilities of our actions and decisions.

**Ideas have consequences.**

**Redeeming the time,-** The idea here isn't about simply making the most of each and every moment. The idea here is making the most of every opportunity for Jesus.

**because the days are evil-** It is important for us to walk circumspectly and to redeem the time because the days are evil.

**Therefore do not be unwise...understand what the will of the Lord is-** As we march towards the end times, many people will be deceived by false

teaching and teachers. The only way we can become wise is to understand His will through His word.

**Paul calls us to see the urgency and necessity of a life lived for Jesus.**

*The only way to make right choices is to understand what the Lord's will is.  
- Tony Evans*

**Vs. 18-21**

**And do not be drunk with wine...but be filled with the Spirit-** The world says to turn a bottle or some manufactured remedy. As believers we are told to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Greek word for filled is plural, therefore the idea here is that there is to be a constant filling. We are to walk in the Spirit constantly.

*Much of the weakness, defeat and lethargy in our spiritual life can be attributed to the fact that we are not constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit. - David Guzik*

**Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs-** When we are walking in the Spirit, there is a desire in our lives to worship God and to speak life over others that are around us.

**Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father-** A Spirit filled person will also be filled with thanksgiving.

**It is hard to be a spirit filled believer and not be thankful to God.**

**Submitting to one another in the fear of God-** The word submitting means to be under someone. It has nothing to do with being better or smarter than someone. As we individually pursue a spirit filled life, we will find that there will be a mutual submission to God and eventually to one another.

*Anyone who has served in the armed forces knows that 'rank' has to do with order and authority, not with value or ability. - Warren Wiersbe*

**Ways that we can practically fill our spiritual tank:**

- 1. Read the Word.**
- 2. Listen to the Lord.**
- 3. Do what the Lord says.**



# 30 Guide

**DO.**

**BOTTOM LINE: If we are children of God, then we need to walk in love, light, and wisdom.**



## DIG DEEPER

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



## DISCUSS.

1. Is it important for believers to walk in love, light and wisdom?
2. In contrast to love, light and wisdom, what are the ways (contrary to these) that the world offers?
3. What are some ways you can apply this scripture to your daily life?



**DO.**

Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on [blueletterbible.com](http://blueletterbible.com) or with their app.