



A STUDY IN  
EPHESIANS

## Where the grass is green...

*Ephesians 4:25-5:7*

5/18/2025

### Reflections / Provocations / Notes:

#### What is your reaction?

- **Burdened?** – The power of the Gospel is not in your doing or in achieving perfection. Your calling is to loving devotion to God through Christ. And in Him are resources to strengthen and equip you for the life He calls you to live.
  - God's sanctifying and refining work
  - The power of the Holy Spirit within believers
  - Biblically healthy spiritual community
- **Offended?** – is there something you are holding onto that you don't want to give to God? A devotion, a lifestyle, a habit, a belief or philosophy that you don't feel ready to give to God? Something else?
- **Angry?** – Maybe you are not offended but angry. Is there an experience or hurt you've experienced boiling beneath the surface? Something else? Is it a matter of authority – a problem with God's authority? A matter of trust? Do you believe God has desires for your good?
- **Ashamed?** – The Gospel of Jesus Christ shows us a love from God that is bigger than we realize or imagine and that you are being handed the gift of God's grace and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ who died and paid for every sin you've done. In Christ, you are no longer condemned but free to know, love, follow and enjoy relationship with God and His presence. Trust in His grace as you strive to love Him in your obedience.
- **Delighted?** – That's great. Maybe your mind can imagine what life would be like if the world looked more like the vision God is painting through this scripture.
- **Inspired?** – Your heart may be feeling stirred to answer God's call to pursue and enjoy life the way God desires and designed it to be.

Those who belong to Christ are members of **one body (4:25)** – how we live, treat each other, worship God, and interact with the world – our lives – have the opportunity to point people toward the vision God has for relationship with Him and to a picture of what the world would look like if it was full of people who loved God and were 100% committed to Him above all other loyalties, desires and designs. When we live this way, our lives, families and communities will show the beauty of God's vision to the world.

DO	DO NOT
4:25 Put off falsehood	4:26 Let your anger lead you to sin
4:25 Speak Truthfully	4:26 Let your anger rule you or stick around
4:28 Work / Contribute	4:27 Give the devil a foothold
4:28 Share with others	4:28 Steal
4:29 Speak what is helpful and builds others up	4:29 Unwholesome talk
4:31 Get rid of rage, anger, brawling, slander, malice	4:30 Grieve the Holy Spirit (see Galatians 5)
4:32 Be kind and compassionate	5:3 Allow even a hint of sexual immorality, impurity, or greed
4:32 Forgive	5:4 be a person using obscenity, foolish talk, coarse joking
5:1 Follow God's example as dearly loved children	5:5 have an identity in sin (what do the patterns, devotions & habits of your life reveal?)
5:2 Walk in the way of Christ-like love	5:6 Be deceived by empty words
5:4 Live with thanksgiving	5:7 Be partners with evil

### Why should you care?

- To experience the goodness of life in God's presence and the beauty of the better things He desires for your life.
- Fellowship with God and eternal security in Him offers hope beyond your circumstances knowing that there is more to your meaning and life than your present, mortal circumstances.
- Less "collateral damage" and better outcomes.
- Your life can leave a legacy of eternal impact on others as they find the same beauty, hope and salvation in God that you've found.

### Why does God care?

You were made for the beauty of a life lived in love and harmony with God. He knows what is best, for you and for everyone else. His love drives Him to point you away from all that hinders you and toward what is in your ultimate best interest - a life redeemed and fulfilled in fellowship with Him.

### What is the point of all of this?

The point of scripture is to awaken you to the reality of the world's brokenness, your brokenness and help you see the beauty of God's heart, love for you and others, to see the beauty and desirability of God and the beauty of His better design for the world. God is awakening people, who are "dead in their sins and trespasses" to life in Him (Ephesians 2:1-10), relationship with Him, a vision for a better life lived as a citizen of Heaven, and an eternity that will bring a fulfillment of goodness, without sin, back to the world, for eternity.

### Ephesians 4:25-5:7

<sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup> "In your anger do not sin"<sup>[a]</sup>: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

<sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**5** <sup>1</sup> Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>3</sup> But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. <sup>4</sup> Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partners with them.

Consider also reading Romans 6:1-14