

“DOCTRINE THAT DELIGHTS”
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
Ephesians 5:1-21
“How are you living?”

Introduction: If someone observed your life would they come to the conclusion that you are a born again servant of the Lord Jesus Christ? If someone observed your life is their evidence of spiritual life or spiritual death? Is there evidence of the resurrection power of the Spirit? Are you living like a new creation?

SECTION I: ARE YOU IMITATING THE SACRIFICIAL LOVE OF GOD? (Ephesians 5:1-2).

- A. To become a child of God you must be born of the Spirit (John 3:3-8). Those of us who are born of God are expected to act like our Daddy (our Heavenly Father). When people reject the Fatherhood of God they are rejecting the revelation God has given us about Himself and they proceed to redefine God in a image they are more comfortable with thereby creating a false God.
- B. True love is reflective of the sacrificial love of Christ. God demonstrated His love for us by dying for the ungodly (Romans 5:8). The substitutionary atoning sacrifice of Christ is the ultimate demonstration of love. When you can love your enemies then you are walking in unconditional sacrificial love.
- C. The sacrifice of Christ was a sweet-smelling aroma to God. This language brings to mind the burnt sacrifices (Genesis 8:21). The sacrifice of Christ accomplished what animal sacrifices could not (Hebrews 10:11-18).

SECTION II: ARE YOU LIVING AS A CHILD OF LIGHT? (Ephesians 5:3-14)

- A. Saints have to practice principles of sin management. We can't control other people but we can be intentional regarding sin struggles in our lives. Just like we should not tolerate rats and roaches in our home we should not tolerate fornication, uncleanness, and covetousness.
- B. Porneia – Greek word translated fornication and root word for pornography. Porneia proceeds from the heart (Matthew 15:19). Saints need to abstain from porneia (Acts 15:20). Saints need to repent of porneia (2 Corinthians 12:21). Abstaining from porneia is part of sanctification process (1 Thessalonians 4:3).
- C. Uncleanness – immorality understood especially as dirty and impure. (Logos). Pharisees were hypocrites who looked good and clean on the outside but were unclean on the inside (Matthew 23:27). Clean versus unclean are related to being in a condition to fellowship with God. Cleanness relates to the standard for proper moral conduct and holiness. Uncleanness causes people to fall into sexual perversion (Romans 1:24). God's holiness is like an absolute sterile environment (1 Thessalonians 4:7). Sinners are slaves of uncleanness (Romans 6:19).
- D. Covetousness– excessive and immoderate desire of acquiring more and more (Logos). Covetousness originates in the heart (Mark 7:22). Life is not about abundant material possessions (Luke 12:15). False prophets use covetousness to exploit people and their

hearts are trained in covetous practices (2 Peter 2:1-22). Filthiness (obscene behavior), foolish talk, and coarse jesting is inappropriate behavior for saints.

- E. What can I do? You can give thanks. Habitual unrepentant sinners do not have any inheritance in the kingdom of God. Do not let people lead you into believing lies. The sons of disobedience experience the wrath of God because they believe lies. They allowed people to deceive them with vain words.
- F. Saints are partakers of the promise of Christ. Do not be partakers of the consequences of unbelief. Saints are referred to as darkness in the past tense. The evidence or product of the Spirit's work in your life is goodness, righteousness, and truth.
- G. Do you intentionally seek what is acceptable to God? Or do you choose to live in ignorance? Why is it important to know what is acceptable to the Lord? We live for Him! Have you fully given yourself to God?
- H. Do not participate in unproductive works of darkness – expose them (John 3:20). Expose means to strongly admonish (2 Timothy 4:1-5; Matthew 18:15; 1 Timothy 5:20; Titus 1:9). Exposing darkness is part of the evangelism process (1 Corinthians 14:24-25).
- I. Ephesians 5:14 is a prophetic call to salvation (Isaiah 60:1; Isaiah 26:19). Spiritually dead people don't have light. Spiritually dead people are given spiritual life so they can have light. The power of the resurrection can impact you today!

SECTION III: HOW ARE YOU MANAGING THE LIMITED TIME YOU HAVE (Ephesians 3:15-21).

- A. We make time for what we want. Is entertainment a healthy outlet for rest and relaxation? We need to live careful lives taking advantage of the time we have.
- B. Do you know God's will? Paul prayed for believers to be filled with the knowledge of God's will (Colossians 1:9). It is the Father's will that believers will not perish (Matthew 18:14). The will of the Father is the preservation and resurrection of the believers (John 6:39). The will of the Father is to give eternal life to everyone who believes in Christ Jesus (John 6:40). Christ Jesus died for our sins according to the will of God (Galatians 1:4). Sanctification for the believer is the will of God (1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 10:10). Giving thanks in all things is the will of God (1 Thessalonians 5:18). It is God's will that we do good works to silence foolish people (1 Peter 2:15).

ARE YOU WALKING IN LOVE AS A WISE CHILD OF LIGHT OR ARE YOU LIVING IN DARKNESS AS A FOOLISH CHILD OF DISOBEDIENCE? "AWAKE, YOU WHO SLEEP, ARISE FROM THE DEAD, AND CHRIST WILL GIVE YOU LIGHT" (EPHESIANS 5:14)

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