

Ephesians 5:8-24

Section 1: Ephesians 5:8-20

Introduction:

to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, (Ephesians 4:22 ESV)

See the words “put off”- this was a word used back in this time to mean to take off a garment. Paul is telling us we need to get off that old garment of the old way of life.

Last week we saw that we are to take off the garment of sexual immorality and put on the new garment of loving the unlovable and when we do that it pleases our Heavenly Father.

Verse 8:

for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8 ESV)

The first thing that Paul tells us is before you accept Christ as your Savior you were darkness.

- 1) Before we accepted Christ our character was darkness, it marked everything we were before Christ came into our life.
- 2) Darkness is the domain of Satan.
- 3) But now you are the light in the Lord- we who have accepted Christ are to reflect his light.

We have been given a new life, a new destiny, and a new garment to wear.

Then Paul tells us five things we ought to be wearing in verses 9 & 10.

(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), (Ephesians 5:9 ESV)

- 1) Love the unlovable.
- 2) “good” - refers to generosity
- 3) “right” - means integrity
- 4) “true” - the absence of falsehood and deception

and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:10 ESV)

- 5) Examine- we are called to examine every action, every decision, every move in the light of Christ.

Paul tells us three things we can expect when we put on this new garment.

Verse 11:

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. (Ephesians 5:11 ESV)

“Take no part”- to absorb the attitudes of those around you.

When we put on this new garment God gives us the power to refuse the darkness.

- 1) God gives us the power

We are to expose darkness by the way we live.

We love the unlovable, are generous, have integrity, have no deception, examine ourselves, and we live as if we are chips off the old block.

- 2) God wants us to reprove darkness by putting on this new garment.

Verse 14:

*for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you." (Ephesians 5:14 ESV)*

Paul is not talking to unbelievers here; he is talking to believers.

- 3) God wants us to wake up

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12 ESV)

You and I are to reflect that light.

Verse 15:

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, (Ephesians 5:15 ESV)

“Look carefully”- about being aware

“Wise” – means knowing but also applying it to our lives

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, (Colossians 1:9 ESV)

“Filled”- means controlled

A) Be wise

Verse 16:

making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:16 ESV)

“Time” – season or opportunity

The season that started in our lives when we accept Christ as our Savior and it will end when we take our last breath.

You and I need to walk wisely and make right choices because the choices we make have consequences.

B) Be wise with your choices

Verse 17:

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (Ephesians 5:17 ESV)

“Foolish”- a mindset before we knew Jesus as our Savior.

C) Be wise, don't be a fool.

Verse 18:

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, (Ephesians 5:18 ESV)

Christians are not to be drunk; this is not an option, it is a command.

Paul is saying don't go there but rather be filled/controlled by the Holy Spirit.

We don't see this so much in English but in the original language this is what being controlled by the Holy Spirit means.

- It is a command- not a suggestion
- It is a plural command- it is not just for a select few, it is for all Christians
- It is a passive command- there are no rituals to receive it or formulas we need
- Present tense command- we do this continually, it is not just a one-time thing

Then Paul shows us three elements of being filled with the Spirit.

Verses 19-21:

addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, (Ephesians 5:19 ESV)

- 1) Singing- praise from the heart

*I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
² He drew me up from the pit of destruction,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the Lord. (Psalm 40:1-3 ESV)*

The early church was a singing church.

giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (Ephesians 5:20 ESV)

2) **Gratefulness**- when we are filled with the Spirit **we are grateful to God**

submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:21 ESV)

3) **Submission**

Section 2: Ephesians 5:22-24

What is the big deal about marriage and the family? **God invented both and it is the foundation of any society.**

Verse 22:

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:22 ESV)

The word "submit" is not in the original writing, it was **added by translators** to explain what Paul is saying.

"Submit"- **means to set something in place** up under **something else**

It means two people who are completely equal in the eyes of God- God is asking the wife to chose to place herself, as an equal **underneath her husband.**

Verse 23:

For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. (Ephesians 5:23 ESV)

The husband is to be the head like Christ is the head of the church.

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45 ESV)

- Husbands are to be servant leaders
- God calls husbands to have a warm heart toward his wife.
- Husbands have a great responsibility before God. One day they will stand before him and give an account on how they took care of his daughter.

God wants husbands to be servant leaders.

Verse 24:

Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (Ephesians 5:24 ESV)

In this passage Jesus has honored the ladies by asking them to do something he has done- submit.

Jesus is the model of submission.