



EPHESIANS 5 PART 1

Having been transformed by Christ, our lives should reflect that change. Paul's message in Ephesians 5:1-7 emphasizes that as God's "dear children," we are to be imitators of Him. This means our conduct should resemble our heavenly Father's in every way, from how we live our lives to how we speak. As Jesus himself said in John 8:44, a child will do the deeds of their father. Therefore, if we are truly God's children, we will mimic His actions and words, which never conflict with one another. The transformation process is ongoing, but it's a choice we make to "put off" the old self and "put on" the new, allowing the Holy Spirit to renew our minds. This life change is a beautiful, sweet-smelling aroma to God, as we sacrifice our own desires to walk in love as Christ loved us.

Walking in love and purity is the visible proof of our transformation. Ephesians 5:3-4 warns against sins like sexual immorality, impurity, greed, filthiness, foolish talking, and coarse jesting, stating that they should "not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints". While these were once a part of our old life, they should no longer be a part of our new life in Christ. The habitual practice of such sins shows a total disregard for God's law and will cost a person their relationship with God and their inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. As First Corinthians 6:11 says, "And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God". Our new life, created in true righteousness and holiness, should be a stark contrast to the darkness of the world. Therefore, do not be "partakers with them" but instead, live a life that is a witness to the grace of God

How does the word "walk" in Ephesians 4-6 connect the doctrine of the first three chapters to our practical duty as believers? (Ephesians 4-6, Genesis 5:24)

Study Questions:

1. How can shifting our focus from "put-offs" to "put-ons" be life-transforming? (Ephesians 4:29, Psalm 19:14)
2. Ephesians 5:1 says, "be imitators of God as dear children". What specific attributes of God does the sermon suggest we should be mimicking? (Ephesians 4:32, Psalm 103:8)
3. We define love as sacrifice, "giving up something valued for the sake of something else that is more important or more valued". What is something you've recently sacrificed for someone else? How does that demonstrate God's Love? (John 15:13, Philippians 2:3-4)
4. Scripture warns that a habitual practice of sin can cost your relationship with God, inheritance, and even heaven. What does it mean to practice sin, vs practicing righteousness? (1 John 3:4, Romans 6:1-2)
5. What does it mean to "be a pattern of good works" with "sound speech that cannot be condemned"? (Titus 2:6-8, 1 Timothy 4:12)