

“Walk in Love, Live in Light”

Ephesians 4:29-5:20

INTRODUCTION

Walk in LOVE (4:25-5:2)

This next section is couched between two “therefore” statements:

1st “THEREFORE”—Here are some practical examples of how to “put off” the flesh and “put on” the Spirit/spirit!

Therefore... (4:25)

2nd “THEREFORE”— The above may be summed up as learning to walk in the way of love, following God’s example!

¹ Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² 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. (5:1-2)

THE WAY OF LOVE

- PUT OFF Lying, PUT ON Truth-telling (25)
- PUT OFF Stealing, PUT ON Hard Work and Generosity (26-28)
- PUT OFF Harmful Words, PUT ON Helpful Words (29)
- PUT OFF Bitterness, PUT ON Kindness and Forgiveness (30-32)

Live in LIGHT (5:3-14)

PUT OFF the Deeds of DARKNESS (vs. 3-7)

³ 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.

Why? Because people who practice these will not inherit the Kingdom of God (5-7)

⁵ 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. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them.

PUT ON the Fruit of LIGHT (vs. 8-14)

Darkness no longer defines you; Light is your new IDENTITY (8a)

So, find out what pleases the Lord and do THAT (8b-10)

Don't ENJOY the darkness, rather EXPOSE it (11-12)

Wake Up! (13-14)

Be Filled with the Spirit (5:15-20)

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit...

CONCLUSION

The Joy of a Spirit-filled Church

¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. Why does Paul insist on us no longer living like the world?
2. In practical terms what does it mean to “walk in love” and “live in light”?
3. As you review the list of exhortations, which one(s) stand out to you as most challenging and why?
4. What is the relationship between your spirit, soul, and body?
5. What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?
6. How does your spirit partner with the Holy Spirit to mortify (not manage) the misdeeds of your broken soul/body (Romans 8:12-13)?