

FEB 1 HANDOUT Ephesians 5:1-17 “Imitating God, Our Father”

READ Ephesians 5:1-17 *Paul is saying if we are the children of God then we ought to imitate our father in heaven. **This is the basis for the three admonitions in today's text.***

- **Vs 1-2** We are to Walk in Love **Vs 8** We are to Walk as Children of Light We are to Walk in Wisdom **Vs 15-17** Therefore, Walk in Purity!

Walk in Love: Paul Gives Us Several Reasons “Why” Christians Ought to Walk in Love:

First, he is God's child! Therefore he is a partaker of God's divine nature, and since God is love, it is logical that God's Children Will Walk in Love. *Paul Is Not asking US to do something that Is Foreign to the Christian life for we have received a new nature that wants to express itself and love.*

- He is God's Beloved Child: When We Received Christ as Savior, We we're Born into a Loving Relationship with the Father and that ought to cause us to Show We Love Him by the Way We live.

Therefore, We are to Walk as Children of Light: We are to Imitate Our Father, Walking in the Light and Having Nothing to Do with the Darkness of Sin! **Paul Gives Us 3 Descriptions of Believers:**

- **We are Saints. Vs 3-4.** We are Set Apart and No longer belong to the world of the darkness around us...We have been called out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- Paul Warns Us Against Sexual Sin...**Because Uncontrolled Sinful Appetites Seek to Satisfy the Desires that God Gave Us in an Ungodly Way.**
- *In Vs 4, he Warns Against the Sins of the Tongue which are Really Sins of the Heart.* In Christ, we must change to act like Christ! **There Is No Room for Sinful Appetites and Course Language!**

Vs 5-6 says when we Trusted Christ as Savior, We Entered into the Kingdom of God. Here Paul makes it clear that people who deliberately and persistently live in sin will not share in God's kingdom.

- Point: Every Christian Sins, however, there's a Difference Between Sinning and Confessing that Sin as King David did...Versus one who goes on in their Sin with No Desire to change!
- KEY: There are Many Professors Who Are Not Possessors! A Christian is Not Sinless, But the Christian Does Sin Less and Less and Less! As a child of God, it is Beneath Our Dignity and Our Position in Christ to Indulge in the Practices of this Lost World that is Outside the Kingdom of God!

Vs 7-14 The Main Thrust of the Passage, Walk as Children of Light! *Now Saved, what Communion does Light have with Darkness?* **Point** It's Impossible to Be in Darkness and Light at the Same Time!

- **Our Godly Character and Conduct Bring God's Light into a Dark World.** We Light the Way for Others to Find their Way to Jesus Christ, As We Witness and Share Christ.

3. Walk in Wisdom Vs 15-17 Paul says, Walk Very Carefully...Examining Your Every Step! We Cannot Leave the Christian Life to Chance. **We must Make Wise Decisions and Seek to do the Will of God.**

Paul Presented several Reasons why we should be accurate and careful in our walk:

Vs 15: It's A Mark of Wisdom. A wise man marks out his course and Guides the Rudder Until he reaches his destination. When a man Builds a house, he first draws his plans so he knows what he is doing.

- We are Gods Only Plan to Reach the Unsaved! We are Not to drift through Life, focused on what we want to do. Wisdom is to Seek God's Plan for Our Lives and Let Nothing Deter Us from it.

Vs 17: So do Not Be Foolish, But Understand What Gods Will Is! God gave Us a Mind, and Expects Us to Use it. God does Not Want Us Simply to Know His Will. He Wants Us to Understand His Will!

- Paul's Point: God saved me and has a purpose for my life. I should discover that purpose and let it guide me..

VS 18-20 Paul concludes this section on Imitating the Father with the Power We Need which is “Be Filled with The Holy Spirit!” To Accomplish this We must Eliminate Anything in our Lives that Keep Us from Being Filled and In All Things, Give God Thanks for All He's Doing in Our lives!

READ Eph 5:18-33: It is Holy Spirit Power that Allows There to Be “Heaven in Our Homes”

Paul's Point: Submit to God and Surrender to Each Other in Reverence for Christ! Harmony in the marriage can only be accomplished through “Submitting” to each other as unto Christ!

- *Submission has Nothing to Do with the Order of Authority...Paul Makes it Clear that it is About Mutual Love and Respect Surrendered to the Headship of Christ! Paul is Not Suggesting that Women are Inferior to Men, or that Women must be in Subjection to Men in Every Situation.*

Wives Submit Yourselves...Paul Gives 2 Reasons for this Command: The Lordship of Christ...And the Headship of the Man in Christ. *As the Christian Wife Submits Herself to Christ and Lets Him be the Lord of Her Life. She Will have no difficulty submitting to her Husband. Headship Is NOT Dictatorship!*

- Ps 37:4: ***"Delight Yourself In the LORD; and He Shall Give You the Desires of Your Heart,"***
- As Married Couples *Align their Desires* with God's Will, It Leads to Fulfillment and Blessings!

Paul had Much More to Say to Christian Husbands than to their Wives. He Set a Very High Standard for Husbands: Love Your Wives, Just as Christ Loved the Church. *Paul was Lifting, Married Love to the Highest Level Possible. He saw the Christian home as an Illustration of the Relationship Between Christ and the Church. WITH CHRIST IN THE CENTER...THERE WILL BE HARMONY!*

God Established Marriage for Many Reasons. One, it Meets Man's Emotional Needs. It is not good that the man should be alone. Marriage also has a social purpose to Bear Children to continue the Race.

- Paul indicated a physical purpose for Marriage, to help both fulfill the normal desires given to them by God. And that together they would *Experience the Submission and the Love of Christ.*

VS 25 If the Husband Makes Christ's Love for the Church the Pattern for Loving his Wife He Will Love Her Sacrificially. Christ gave himself for the Church, so the husband, in Love, gives himself for his wife.

- **KEY:** A husband Submitted to Christ and Filled with God's Spirit, will Sacrificially Love **[pay a price]** that She Might be able to Serve Christ in the Home and Glorify God
- VS 26–27 State that the Husband's Love Will Also Be A “Sanctifying Love”. The word Sanctify means to “Set Apart or Make Holy”. *This is the Husbands Responsibility Before Christ!*
- **POINT:** ***The Marriage Experience is One of Constant Growth when Christ is the Lord of the Home...Love, Always Enlarges and Enriches.***

The Church is Not Perfect, it has Spots and Wrinkles. "Spots are caused by Defilement on the Outside, While Wrinkles are Caused by Decay on the Inside." Because the church becomes defiled by the world, it needs constant cleansing. God's Word is the Cleansing Agent to Keep Us Unspotted from the World

As a Church is Nourished by the Word, These Wrinkles Ought to Disappear. *Likewise, As Husbands Put Gods Word at the Center of their Marriage, the Wife will be cleansed...And the Joy of the Husband will be to Present Her to Christ Without Spot of Wrinkle!* **READ Vs 28**

The Main Point of Ephesians 5:21-32 is that Marriage Reflects Christ's Relationship with the Church. This Calls for Mutual Submission...**To Be Rooted in Christ.**

- Wives should Submit to their Husbands as Onto the Lord...While Husbands Must Love Their Wives Sacrificially...As Christ Loved the Church. Husbands are to Nourish and Cherish Our Wives as Our Own Bodies...As We Do We Symbolize Christ's Redeeming Love for His People.

A Christian marriage speaks to the world by Being a Living, Prophetic Picture of Christ's Sacrificial, Covenantal Love for His Church. It's a Powerful Witness to God's Faithfulness, Showing Unselfish Love, Steadfast Loyalty & Unity, even Midst Challenges, Making God's Truth Tangible & Attractive

LIFE POINT: A Strong Christian Marriage Is A Visible Sermon, Proclaiming God's Redemptive Story and the Transforming Power of His Love to the World.