

Ephesians

Chapter 5

Let's open with prayer,

Our heavenly Father,

Again we thank you for your word. We pray that as we begin this next chapter, that you will open up our hearts and minds so that we might understand these truths of your word and that we might grow in Christ. For it is in His name we pray, Amen!

We are continuing with the details of the new life. Remember that the doctrine is that God has taken both Jew and Gentile, and in Jesus Christ made us all one called the body of Christ.

We have that unity in Christ. But that one unity functions a certain way. So he gave us that in Chapter 4. And he continues now in Chapter 5 with relationships.

C.O.

Ephesians 5:1-18 The Proper Order in the World

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He begins with the proper order in the world for the believer. First of all the expression of the believer. There will be three things mentioned in this section.

There are three commands:

1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

The word be is literally become. And the word followers is the word imitate. What is special about this word is that Mimetai in the Greek has to do a mimic, a person who performs mime.

In those days, the mime would express himself through facial expressions and through actions on a stage in order to produce the story.

Paul picked up on this phrase. He mentions it three times in his letters about imitating him. It doesn't mean follow him. It doesn't mean to copy him. It means to have the same expression in your life that Paul does, same story, same spirit, and same life!

Therefore become mimes of God as dear children.

Secondly:

2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

And walk in love,

You see, we already have the love of Christ. Paul says walk in it, as Christ also has loved us, and has given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

You see, the example of walking in love is sacrifice. Jesus gave us that example.

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

But fornication, which is sexual immorality, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, and covetousness means the desire to have more than what you have.

He says let it not be once named among you,

Our churches would be shut down with just that one command!

Let it not once be named among you, as it becomes, or is proper for saints;

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not necessary: but rather the giving of thanks.

Just to give you a summary statement of the technical expression in Verse 4, what he's saying is the evil that is lived out in the world, you should not make jokes out of it.

There are people who are dying in their sins. And sometimes we play the role of the drunkard, or the person on drugs, and we have a good laugh about it. But we're making mockery of something or someone that is losing their soul because they are involved in those kinds of practices.

So that's the commands, three of them. Become imitators, walk in love, and let it not once be named amongst you as it becomes saints.

So all these things, the immorality, and all uncleanness and covetousness, not only should it not be named amongst us that we are doing it, but we should also not make jokes about it, about sexual immorality, uncleanness, or covetousness!

Now the concept, under the expression of the believer:

5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

For this you know, that no whoremonger, which is a person involved in a type of prostitution, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

These people are lost!

Now these are nouns that name people that represent their lifestyle. These aren't verbs meaning that if you as a believer commit one of these things that you are lost.

These are people who live the covetous life, and the life of idolatry. They are not saved.

The participation of the believer in Verses 6 through 14, and we have four commands.

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

First of all, let no man deceive you with empty words: for because of these things comes the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

Secondly, be not ye therefore partakers with them.

This is a very, very pointed, yet very difficult section about the deceivers. Do not be partakers with them.

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord:

As we keep going into this, it gets deeper.

Thirdly: Walk as children of light:

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

Proving, which goes with walk as children, walk as children of light by proving what is acceptable to the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Fourthly: And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

The word reprove means bring conviction, by not participating.

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

But all things that are reprov'd, or convicted, they are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever does make manifest is the light.

Don't be partakers of the unfruitful works of darkness. As Gentiles, we have a habit of mingling and joining in with the fellowship of non-believers.

According to the bible, and we'll go through it more as we get into more of Paul's letters later on.

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By not participating, what would it do, make them angry? Upset?

That's God's testimony. It's not a "holier than thou" stand. It brings about conviction because it's not right in the sight of the Lord.

That's why non-believers try to get believers to compromise, because it removes the conviction! "Why don't you go drinking with us? The other guys that go drinking with us, they go to church too. They're Christians, so what's the problem?"

They're always trying to get the Christian to compromise because it removes conviction. On the other hand, a strong stand not to compromise, and to walk in the light and not to walk in the darkness brings conviction. And that's what God uses us for.

The concept again. We just had a set of commands and the concept. Here's the concept:

14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

Not a quote from the Old Testament, but apparently it's a quote from somebody because it's in quotes in the original text. Some think it's from a combination of Paul's writings from the book of Romans.

The evaluation of the believer. First of all, the caution.

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

So then walk circumspectly,

And you always get the feedback from people that say I would if I knew what that meant. It means accurately. It's a mathematical term.

Walk accurately, not as fools, but as wise,

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

By redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Well that haunts me because I will never get today back again. Not only have I been purchased, but my time has been purchased, and my life has been purchased by Christ!

It's not meant to bring guilt from the works of the law. But just realizing that whatever time I wasted today, I'll never get it back. And God has given me that time!

The conclusion:

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

M.V.

Ephesians 5:18

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, or literally a dissipated or destructive life; but be filled with the Spirit;

The word filled is what is called a present imperative. Be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit. And again, the word filled means to have the human faculties filled. It's influence. Seek to have the Holy Spirit influence your life.

C.O.

Ephesians 5:19-21
The Principles of Being Filled
with the Spirit

Now it is very interesting because there are four characteristics he lists of what a person experiences when they are filled with the Spirit.

Beginning with Verse 19, and these are all participles:

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19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Speaking to yourselves, and notice that it says speaking. Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual odes,

Secondly, and these two are both one: Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

There are people in the churches that complain that they need more music and they need to worship more.

The response to that is to say that nobody's stopping you. You can worship the Lord all day long if you want to. You can make a melody in your heart to the Lord. But they want more "worship."

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. They used songs and singing and words of songs for teaching.

Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. Nobody can stop you from worshipping the Lord.

Now you have to understand that in the early church, for the first 300 years, they were under persecution. They don't exactly have a microphone and a speaker set up outside singing worship to the Lord!

Whatever worship they sang, it was very silent, very quiet so nobody would detect them.

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Thirdly, giving thanks always.

Now here's a tough one.

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

I don't give thanks for everything. That's how I can tell if I'm under the influence of God's Spirit or not. Why can't I thank Him for everything? He's behind everything. He's doing everything. He's got everything all planned out.

Under the influence of God's Spirit, give thanks always for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Fourthly, and this is very important: Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Submission to one another, that is to every believer.

And just a short technical point. The word submission in Greek means to be in an orderly relationship.

What that means is there is not a relationship between two people, but between three, you, me, and the Lord. I have to line up with the Lord for a right relationship with you!

I heard of a man that commanded his wife to go out and commit prostitution so that they could bring in extra money. And the wife was devastated because some of her friends were saying that she had to obey her husband in all things according to the bible.

In the book of Acts, the disciples said to the ruling Sanhedrin when they said we will not allow you to preach any more in this man's name, and they said whether it's right to obey you rather than God, or God rather than you, you decide. We're going to obey God!

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To be in an orderly relationship means that I can submit and function with you, but when you put me in a position to sin against my Lord and violate His word, if I were to obey that, I would be out of order.

It's a little confusing but it has to do with lining up with people in the Lord. So when it says submitting yourselves to one another, it means line up with one another in the Lord.

Now this is very important because what we're going to have next is the proper order in marriage and the first thing you read is for the wives to submit to their husbands, as unto the Lord.

C.O.

Ephesians 5:22-33
The Proper Order in Marriage

M.V.

Ephesians 5:22

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

The command for the wives is to submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

You don't see the word submit anywhere else. You don't need to. She's to submit to her husband, but her husband is also to submit to her.

Some might say "Whoa, wait a minute!" But he is to have an orderly relationship with his wife. He's not elevated to a dictatorship. He has a responsibility and a function, and they submit to each other in their functions and their roles.

So it says wives submit yourselves, and notice this: to your "own" husbands.

Paul always liked to slip that in there because he found some wives submitting to other people's husbands.

But he says to your own husbands, as to the Lord, not as if he is the Lord, but as you're submitting to the Lord through your husband.

The comparison:

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

The conclusion in Verse 24:

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

There's going to be a time where this verse is read in church, and someone's wife is going to raise their hand and ask "What's every thing? I mean every thing can't mean every thing can it?"

Well yea, that's what it says right here! It means to be lined up, be in submission. Function in Christ with your husband in every thing!

M.V.

Ephesians 5:25

Now the instruction for husbands, and all of this comes under that fourth characteristic of being filled with the Spirit. All of these relationships come under the heading of being in submission to one another.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

What is he saying? Christ sacrificed Himself for the spiritual wellbeing of the church.

Christian men, if you're going to get married, your life is a sacrifice to make sure your wife and your children get to the word and the things of Christ.

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The comparison: even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

And there are two things:

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

That's what Jesus did so that's what I'm to do.

And secondly in Verse 27:

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

How much of a spiritual concern do we have for our families and for our wife, that one day she'll stand before the Lord? Will she be complete?

The conclusion:

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies.

Uh Oh!

He that loves his wife loves himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

For no man ever yet hated his own flesh;

In case you haven't noticed that about men, we like to be men, you know?

For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourishes it and cherishes it, even as the Lord does the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

K.V.

Ephesians 5:31
Genesis 2:24 LXX

M.V.

Ephesians 5:31

The foundation of marriage, Verses 31 to 33:

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

The condition: For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife,

The word joined is the word glue, glued to the wife. Once you become one, leave mother and father, period!

And they two shall be one flesh. That's a quote from Genesis 2:24.

M.V.

Ephesians 5:32

The concept of marriage:

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

That is why God instituted marriage.

The man represents Christ, the head of the church, the woman represents the congregation, or the followers, so that no matter where we are, there is a testimony of Christ and His church to everyone around us.

Now if you want a big church, you have to have a lot of kids! But then the family becomes the church, and the men are like pastors.

That's why Paul spoke to Timothy in 1 Timothy Chapter 3 that a man must first learn how to govern his own house before he can step up into leadership in the body of Christ.

Because in the body of Christ it is a gathering of individual families. If a person doesn't know how to pastor his own family, he can't pastor a church!

The conduct in marriage:

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she has reverence, or respect, for her husband.

Let's close with prayer,

Our heavenly Father,

Again we are humbled in your presence. We consider it a blessing to be given the time to spend in your word. Often times, we don't use that time wisely and we go out and do our own thing. We get too busy to study your word.

We pray that you would help us to stay focused. Continue to draw us so that we will come, and continue to place that desire in our hearts. Your word is powerful and it is through your word, and through it only that there can be any spiritual growth in our lives. Again, we thank you for your provision and it is in Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

