

**Ephesians 5:1 *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.***

Therefore, implies what was spoken of in the previous. In chapter four, Paul talks about walking in the new man and putting off everything that the old man once produced. He is encouraging the Ephesians to be imitators of God. The English definition for imitator is a person who copies the behavior or actions of another. Many times, you can tell who a child's parents are by watching how they act. The child has adopted the behavior patterns from their parents and start to mimic them. We should watch our Heavenly Father and copy him like a child copies their parent. What are some of God's behavior patterns? All the things listed in chapter four; speaking truth (v. 25), using words to edify (v.29), being kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving others (v.32). The word imitator in Greek is mimetes and also mean followers. We should be following God's patterns.

Ephesians 5:1-7 emphasize a believer walking in love.

**Ephesians 5:2 *And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.***

This word walk was the same word used in Ephesians 4:17 and means to live. We should have a constant lifestyle of loving the way Jesus did. How did Jesus love? This word love was the same word used in Ephesians 4:2 which was agape love, meaning selfless and putting others wellbeing before themselves. Jesus humbled himself, became a man, and bore the sin of the entire human race for us. He became our substitutionary sacrifice and took our place. The scriptures say He gave Himself for us (Gal 2:20) and there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend (John 15:13).

**Ephesians 5:3 *But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;***

The word fornication in Greek is porneia and includes adultery or incest. A believer now has the spirit of God inside of them and his new nature does not desire to do these activities listed in this verse (Rom 6:2). We do not have a nature now that compels us to indulge in sin.

**Ephesians 5:4 *neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.***

Most people reading this would believe fornication, uncleanness, or covetousness or all wrong, but Paul adds more in this verse. Filthiness, foolish talk, and jesting (silliness) are also included right along with the previous verse.

Thanksgiving in Greek is eucharistia and means grateful and to give thanks. We can only be grateful and give thanks for something that has already been done. If we go back to chapters 1-3 and see all that God has done for us by giving us new life and uniting us with Jesus, we will not fall short of giving thanks.

**Ephesians 5:5 *For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.***

This verse has been used to say that a person who participates in these activities are not born again or that they lose their salvation. This verse is speaking of the type of person (noun) not what someone does (verb). A righteous person may be involved in an activity like this but they do not lose their salvation. An unrighteous person (someone not born again) will not see the kingdom of God but someone who is born again that is participating in these activities will hinder their inheritance. Galatians 5:21 and 1 Corinthians 6:9 are similar verses but they do not mean the person is not saved.

Ephesians 2:8 says that it is by God's grace that we have been saved through faith. This means it is a gift, unearned, unmerited favor. Salvation is not based off what we do and if we mess up then we lose it. This has caused many Christians to fall into condemnation when they do something wrong, but this verse is not saying if you miss the mark than they will not see the kingdom of God. The only people who will not see the kingdom of God are those who have not put their faith in Jesus as their Lord (Rom 10:9-10, 10:13).

**Ephesians 5:6 *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.***

The only way to keep from being deceived is to know truth. The Bible is our lie detector and should compass what we believe or not. During the time this letter was written there was a group of Gnostics that proclaimed false teaching in Paul's day. They taught that their indulgence in the flesh and sinful appetite was okay because their inner man was pure. Paul deals with many of the Gnosticism teachings in the book of Colossians and his greatest weapon for the church of Colossi to not be taken captive by philosophy or empty deceit was through establishing them in truth. The way the enemy capture any of us is through deception (Hos 4:6). He will get us to believe a lie and watch us destroy ourselves.

Words are containers that carry power. When words are released to us it is either carrying life or death. When Israel heard Goliath's usual defiance, they became dismayed and greatly afraid (1 Sam 17:11) but when David heard the same words, he went to battle against him (1 Sam 17:23). The difference here is that David knew he had a covenant with God and had already spent so much time with the Lord against the lion and the bear, Goliath was no problem for him. We need to know the covenant we have through Jesus so that when words rise up as weapons against us, we do not accept them but reject them (Is 54:17).

Notice this verse does not say the wrath of God comes upon His children. Those who have not put faith in Jesus will experience God's wrath but God is not punishing His children when they sin. Sin will punish you but it is not God (Rom 6:23).

**Ephesians 5:7 *Therefore do not be partakers with them.***

The word partakers in Greek is *summetochos* and means to participate. It is not Biblical to stay away from people who are participating in ungodly lifestyles because how would they come and see the light? The gospels are full of sinners eating and following Jesus as He came to seek and save that which was lost (Lk 19:10). However, we should not join in activity with them. A good compass to this can be compared to ice. Are we melting unto them and helping them change or are we sticking to them and conforming to their activity?

**Ephesians 5:8 *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light***

We once had a sin nature that was a child of the devil, controlled by the prince of this air, without God and without hope (Ephesians 2) but now once we receive Jesus in our spirits are alive and connected back to God. Since we are now united with God and empowered, we should walk as children of the light. Our walk is in response to who we are. This comes from a position of resting in our identity and no longer are we striving to try to do better but now we need to simply see who we are in Christ. Our position produces action, our actions do not give us position.

Ephesians 5:8-14 speak of a believer walking in light.

**Ephesians 5:9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),**

The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, gentleness, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal 5:22-23). Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. We bear fruit because we are now in Christ and the Father is glorified when we bear fruit (Jn 15:8). Our born again spirit is identical to Jesus and is never sad, rude, angry, or in fear. We must walk in the spirit to release what has already been imputed within us.

We are never at a shortage to release life. If we were to enter into a hotel and there were not any towels or soap, it is not a problem if you packed your own. You will not get moved by the apparent need because you already packed the supply. This is the same with walking in the spirit, if the person or circumstances do not provide you with peace or joy, it is not a problem because you packed your own.

**Ephesians 5:10 *finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.***

The Greek word for proving in this verse is dokimazō and means to test or exam what is acceptable to the Lord. The Greek word for acceptable is euarestos and means well pleasing. The Bible was written for our learning and will reveal to us what is well pleasing to the Lord (Rm 15:4, 2 Tim 3:16).

**Ephesians 5:11 *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.***

The word fellowship in Greek is sugkoinoneo and means to share in company with. We should not share company with the works of darkness, not the person. The spirit produces fruit but the works of darkness are unfruitful.

This is also not saying to expose the person but the works. Since we are children of the light now abiding in the vine it should be evident of the fruit we bare.

**Ephesians 5:12 *For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.***

In Romans chapter one Paul speaks of the Gentiles need for righteousness and how God gives a person over in the lust of their hearts to dishonor their own bodies trading the truth of God for a lie. Chapter one of Romans discusses a person that is separated from God and that they do not even care.

**Ephesians 5:13 *But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.***

Jesus said, "He who does the truth comes into the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God" (Jn 3:21). It is through light that darkness is exposed.

**Ephesians 5:14 *Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."***

This is a quotation taken from Isaiah 26:19; 60:1

Many Christians have already rose from the dead spiritually but we are still asleep in that we are not walking in the light that we belong to. A believer should be as distinguishable from a nonbeliever as light is to darkness; they are total opposites. Most Christians are under cover and outsiders would be surprised to know they are born again.

**Ephesians 5:15** *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,*

The word fools in this verse is referring to someone that is unwise. Paul is about to say how we do not walk as fools and it may shock many Christians.

Ephesians 5:15-21 speak of how a believer should be walking in wisdom.

**Ephesians 5:16** *redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

Redeeming the time is referring to the coming of the Lord. We should be about our Father's business and understand our assignment as ambassadors of Christ in this life (2 Cor 5:20).

**Eph 5:17** *Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

In this verse the apostle Paul tells the Ephesians, including us how to not walk unwise and it is by knowing the will of the Lord. Many Christians would say God is a mystery and we just never know what He is going to do. This verse tells us we should not be ignorant concerning what the will of the Lord is. Colossians 1:9 says that we should be filled with the knowledge of God's will. It is God's will that we walk in health, prosper financially, and experience life more abundantly. If we think God is the one causing tragedy in our lives, we do not know His will.

**Ephesians 5:18** *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*

When someone is drunk it changes the way a person may act. It alters their actions and likewise, being filled with the Holy Spirit should also affect the way we act. This entire chapter centers around our walk in union with Christ as our response to what took place when we got born again.

**Ephesians 5:19** *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,*

Worship is a powerful tool to withstand the enemy and his attacks. Many people avoid praise and worship at a church service, but music can minister just as much of the word as preaching can. The joy of the Lord is our strength (Neh 8:10).

**Eph 5:20** *giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

Giving thanks always is not a request but a command. In all of Paul's letters with the exclusion of Titus and Galatians, he begins with thanksgiving. Paul lived in a constant state of thanksgiving. When we truly know how much God has invested in us by sending His Son on our behalf, it is hard to not have a lifestyle of gratitude.

One of the main ingredients to not falling into depression is to be thankful. Thanksgiving will realign our focus onto what is right and off of what is wrong.

**Eph 5:21** *submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

One of Paul's greatest themes was unity mentioned throughout this book. We should not let anything be done through selfish ambition but keeping others in mind, as Christ kept us in mind when going to the cross (Phil 2:3).

**Eph 5:22 *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.***

Wives are commanded to submit themselves to their own husbands but we must note it says unto the Lord. If a husband is asking his wife to submit to something that is ungodly, she is not obligated to follow her husband.

**Ephesians 5:23 *For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.***

Paul is now moving into the practical side of our new born again spirit through the finished works of Christ and how that should now look in a marriage union. The husband is the head of the marriage as Christ is head of the church. Just as Jesus does not dominate His bride, so is a husband who is the head does not dominate his wife. The world's view of marriage should be and look very different than a believer.

**Ephesians 5:24 *Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.***

This is not saying women are subject to all men or that they are an inferior being but that they are subject to their own husbands. The apostle Paul goes in depth on the topic of women or wives submitting to their husband and what that truly resembles in 1 Timothy 2:8-14.

**Ephesians 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,***

Husbands normally tend to give their wives what they want which is respect, but this verse tells husband to love their wives. Women are wired to be loved and want to feel that love. Paul tells us how husbands should love their wives and it is the same way Christ loves us, His bride. Jesus put us before Himself as should every husband for his wife. Jesus also loved us while we were still sinners and were His enemies. Many husbands today are waiting for their wife to straighten up, then they will love her. This is not the way Jesus operated. He loved us when we did not have our act together. A husband should not wait for his wife to change to treat them right.

**Eph 5:26 *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,***

Our words have power and God never uses his words to diminish us. A husband should speak of his wife that which he wants her to be, not what she is portraying. She will be what you speak of her.

1 Peter 3:1 says wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives. Husbands are to use the word to edify his wife but wives can win their husbands without a word and by their actions (Eph 5:26).

**Ephesians 5:27 *that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.***

We should not be in a position of looking like we have been overcome but that we are overcomers. The Lord should be returning to a victorious church not one that is barely surviving.

**Ephesians 5:28** *So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.*

In the same way a husband cares for his own body, so he must love his wife. A husband who does not love his wife does not love himself.

**Ephesians 5:29** *For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.*

The comparison Paul is making here is as much as someone tends to and nurtures their own body, so should a husband be to his wife.

**Ephesians 5:30** *For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.*

The Lord is the head and we are His body. We are one and one part cannot function without the other part. As we are the bride of Christ, we are united to Him and He nourishes and cherishes us as a husband should his wife. The Lord will never ask a husband to do something He has not done for his bride.

**Ephesians 5:31** *"for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."*

This is a quotation taken from Genesis 2:24 and 1 Corinthians 6:16. Again, the context of this verse is a marriage union between a man and woman.

**Ephesians 5:32** *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

In context, Paul is using the marriage union of a man and a woman to illustrate the marriage union between us and Christ.

**Ephesians 5:33** *Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

Wives lean more towards wanting to show their husbands love but here it says we should respect our husbands. Many times, wives feel they are the Holy Spirit and have to lead and guide their husbands through everything but that is not true. Husbands want to feel that they are the head of the house, and it is the wife's obligation to give them what they need which is respect.