



ENOGERA BAPTIST CHURCH
Jesus changes lives

EPHESIANS: PART #3 NEW LIVING



Ephesians #13 – The Gospel Brings Light (5:1-14)

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

NOTE FOR LEADERS

This document is intended to be used as a discussion *guide*, rather than a curriculum. As small group leaders, please feel free to lead through the topic as most appropriate for your group.

HOUSEKEEPING

Things going at the moment:

- **Christmas Carols Save the Date**
 - Sunday Dec 22nd 4pm



EPHESIANS #13 – THE GOSPEL BRINGS LIGHT (5:1-14)

REFLECT

This is a time to generate some discussion by reflecting on the ideas in this week's message. Some ideas include:

- Ask the group to debrief for those who have missed the sermons on Sunday
- What stood out? Do you have any questions?
- Were there any special moments of clarity where God spoke to you clearly?

DIG INTO THE WORD

Let's dig a little deeper. Use the biblical text to discover what God reveals to us in his Word.

Ephesians 5:1-14

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”



APPLY

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scriptures apply directly to their lives. Get group members to talk about the real-life implications of the study.

1. **DISCUSS:** How are we to apply these things? Are there any immediate implications?
2. **HOLINESS:** What did mean when he said that holiness is relational? How is it relational in v.1-2?
3. **SIN IS ALSO RELATIONAL:** *Read verse 3-6*
 - a. Try distil the list of sins down to the three main ones.
 - i. *sexual immorality, crude jokes, coveting.*
 - b. What is it that links these together?
 - i. *They are all relational.*
 - c. How are these also relational?
 - i. *They are relational because they are all against people. They each violate the “imago dei” – the value of other human beings given them by God. Sex outside of God’s plan treats people as things. Filthy talky speaks of them as things. Coveting treats people as obstacles to our own selfish desires.*
4. **WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT:** *Read verses 7-14*
 - a. *Talk through v7-14* – Why should we walk in the light? What is the difference between walking in the light and in the dark?
 - b. What does it mean to walk in the dark?
 - i. *Think of hiding behind fig leaves like in Genesis 3.*
 - c. What fig leaves do you hide behind?
 - d. What needs to be brought into the light in your life?
5. **PRAY:** Pray that God will bring us into the light and keep us in the light where we are free from guilt and shame!

PRAY

Pray that God will bring us into the light and keep us in the light where we are free from guilt and shame!

NOTES

[Eph. 5:1–20](#) New Life in Love. After a two-verse transitional section, Paul gives general instructions for holy living. He focuses on purity of life—both by avoiding evil deeds and associations and by adopting holy practices. [Verse 21](#) connects [vv. 1–20](#) with [vv. 22–6:9](#).

[Eph. 5:1–2](#) Exhortation to Self-Sacrificial Love. Paul’s discussion of love serves also as an introduction to further instructions on holy living ([vv. 3–20](#)). **imitators**. Believers are to imitate God’s holiness in all of their conduct. They are to be like him, not as slaves trying to earn a wage but as **children**—and **beloved** children at that! **loved**. The past tense does not suggest that Christ has *stopped* loving us but only that, when he **gave himself up for us**, it was the supreme act of his love (see [John 15:13](#)).



[Eph. 5:3–20](#) Instruction in Holy Living. Paul gives general instructions on how Christians are to lead holy lives. He centers on wisdom in speech, sexual purity, associations, and other similar aspects of a thankful life.

[Eph. 5:3](#) **sexual immorality**. This general term (Gk. *porneia*) covers all sexual sins, including adultery, fornication, homosexuality, etc. **Covetousness** is a jealous longing for what others possess ([Ex. 20:17](#)), and it amounts to idolatry ([Eph. 5:5](#); [Col. 3:5](#)). **named**. Christians must be careful to guard their integrity and public reputation because public sins dishonor God, who has chosen them to be holy.

[Eph. 5:4](#) **Thanksgiving**, in contrast to **crude joking** and **foolish talk**, is the positive way to speak, and it also counteracts covetousness (see [v. 3](#)). The way to avoid coveting others' possessions is to concentrate with thanks upon the good things the Lord has given (see [vv. 19–20](#)).

[Eph. 5:5](#) **idolater**. Covetousness places one's ultimate allegiance in the acquisition of the possessions of others, which often leads to other grave sins (e.g., [1 Kings 21:1–19](#)). Paul says this is tantamount to idolatry (see also [Col. 3:5](#)). **inheritance**. See [Eph. 1:13–14](#); [4:30](#). **kingdom**. Paul speaks of Christ ruling now from the right hand of God (see [1:20–22](#); cf. [Rom. 8:34](#); [1 Cor. 15:24–27](#); [Col. 3:1](#); etc.). Believers have already been brought into his redemptive kingdom (see [Eph. 2:6](#); [Col. 1:13–14](#)), although it will be consummated only at his second coming ([1 Cor. 15:20–24](#); [2 Tim. 4:1](#)). For Paul the kingdom of God in its fullness is the eternal realm that believers will finally and fully enter through resurrection immortality ([1 Cor. 15:50](#); [1 Thess. 2:12](#)), but it should also be experienced in some measure now in this age, through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit ([Rom. 14:17](#)).

[Eph. 5:6](#) **deceive you ... because of these things**. A common deception throughout church history has been the notion that professing Christians can lead unrepentant, sinful lives after conversion to Christ (see [2 Tim. 3:1–9](#); [2 Pet. 2:1–3](#); [Rev. 2:14, 20](#)) and not suffer the consequences. But these practices lead to **the wrath of God** in judgment (e.g., [Rev. 2:21–23](#)). **sons of disobedience**. This Hebrew-inspired phrase describes people who habitually live in disobedient sin without repentance and thereby prove themselves to be children of the devil (also [John 8:44](#); [1 John 3:10](#)), like Judas, “the son of destruction” ([John 17:12](#)).

[Eph. 5:7](#) **become partners**. Paul is not telling Christians to avoid all contact with nonbelievers but to avoid joining with them in their sin.

[Eph. 5:8](#) **Walk as children of light**. See [1 John 1:5–7](#). Cf. also [Ps. 27:1](#); [Isa. 9:2](#); [42:6](#); [49:6](#); [John 9:5](#); [Acts 13:47](#); [26:18](#).

[Eph. 5:9](#) **Fruit of light** is similar to fruit of the Spirit (cf. [Gal. 5:22–23](#)).

[Eph. 5:10](#) The Bible gives general principles for life, but followers of Christ must use wisdom to **discern** how to apply those principles to the concrete issues of their lives. The book of Proverbs is of great help in this regard. Such wisdom may be defined as “the skill of godly living,” which one must thoughtfully discern, apply, and practice in order to live in a way that is **pleasing to the Lord**.



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[Eph. 5:11](#) Expose means either to reprove or to convince through argument and discussion (also [v. 13](#)), at the same time taking great care not to gossip or to slander others. Instead, Christians should show by their lives and their wise interactions that the **works of darkness** are not to be ignored among God's holy people.

[Eph. 5:14](#) it says. The quotation is not of any one OT passage but is probably a combined reference to several places, especially in Isaiah: "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you" ([Isa. 60:1](#); [see 9:2](#); [26:19](#)).

REFERENCE:

Developed with the help of the following:

- ESV Study Bible, Crossway.
- NIV Zondervan Study Bible.