

Paul's Letter to
The Ephesians



Lesson 5-The Christian Walk in Contrast to the World, Husbands & Wives Focus: Eph. 5:1-33

1. Being followers of God instead of followers of the sinful world is a Practical Matter (v.1-7)

- a. (v.1,2) *"As dear children" we should be "followers of God" **walking in self-sacrificing love as Christ has done!!***
- b. (v.3) Sexual immorality (fornication), "covetousness" (greediness) **should not even be hinted at among us who are called by Christ's name.** We should not have the slightest taint of these sins in our lives. Jesus Christ calls us to complete purity (and He empowers us to reach His high and holy standard as well; see Matthew 5:48; John 15:4,5; Philippians 4:13; Jude 1:24). Being **covetous** or greedy is a **deadly and common sin which comes gradually upon people as they cherish greedy gains of income, etc.** Jesus warns about this deadly sin in Luke 12:15. *This was also the sin of Achan in the Old Testament times of Joshua the son of Nun. Achan took an "accursed thing" unto himself. He took treasure from a battle scene which God had said no one was to take! He coveted after the gold and silver which did not belong to him (Joshua 7:20,21). Because of his disobedience to God's word, Israel lost a battle, having lost God's favor and protection, 36 men of Israel were killed in the process, and Achan and his family were punished by the death sentence. **Covetousness is a serious sin! Do not allow yourself to be carried away by the "greed of gain."** Instead, we may choose to prayerfully and faithfully live out God's principles which will help us to not be greedy for gain (For example, see Leviticus 19:9,10). **"You cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:24).***
- c. (v.4) **What does God's word have to say about foolish "jesting and joking"? *Is our speech and manner truly important?*** (1 Timothy 6:20; 2 Timothy 2:16; James 1:26; Matthew 12:36,37 are a few places that speak more of this). The trouble is that **light and foolish words lead to light and foolish thinking.** Light, trifling words lead our minds and attitudes into sinful ways. One person's words and trifling attitude will affect another person, and it leads us away from sober, rational, and meaningful thinking and talking. "In the multitude of words, there lacks not sin..." (Prov. 10:19). We should have straight forward talk and words that carry sincere meaning, as Jesus instructs us in Matthew 5:37. We should remember that God has eternally vital subjects for us to speak about during our days. We should not make light of things or abuse the precious time given to us (see Deuteronomy 6:7). Its true there "is a time to laugh" at the simple things of life, but we should be careful not to use light, trifling, and vain conversation for the sake of laughter or hilarity! (Ecclesiastes 3:4).
- d. (v.5-7) **None who live in the sins of sexual immorality, uncleanness, covetousness, etc. will be allowed to inherit the kingdom of God.** *We must allow Christ to work by His transforming grace in our lives!! (Ref. Romans 12:1,2; Titus 2:11-14). "Such WERE some of you..." but Christ Jesus transforms us more into His image every day as we are willing to seek Him and to work together with him (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Therefore, do not be "partakers" of the sins and sinfulness of this world!!*

2. Walking in the light of Heaven (v.8-17)

- a. (v.8-12) *At one time, we too were lost in the filthy darkness of sin. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). But now, God has called us to be His children of light. The Holy Spirit produces a truly righteous fruit in us. Let us **reprove the shameful and wicked works of darkness**. Speak out against what sin is, but also lovingly deal with erring souls by pointing them to our Savior—Jesus Christ!! Remember, the example of Jesus. Condemn sin for what it is, but don’t just go around condemning the sinner as if there wasn’t a hope left. Point people to the loving and merciful Jesus who can lovingly save and deliver us from our sins. Jesus did not come with condemnation, but with loving compassion and mercy to save the erring and perishing sinner (See John 8:10, 11). “It is a shame, even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret” (v.12)—make no under-estimate of the horrendous nature of sin!! (or the shameful nature of it). **Have NO compassion or sympathy for sin!!** Only desire through Christ to save the sinner from it (as in Matthew 1:21).*
- b. (v.13-17) **We can understand “what the will of the Lord is” (v.17)**; that is, to save us from our sins (Ezekiel 33:11; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 12:2). Christ calls us to “awake!!” from our slumber and to **be “light!”** We must do the work of Christ and “redeem the time, because the days are evil” (v.16)—*Make proper use of our time here to lead souls to righteousness! (Additional references, Psalm 90:12; Proverbs 11:30; Daniel 12:3; Matthew 5:14-16).*

3. Live Christ’s way and give glory to God (v.18-20) *Do not be drunk with wine (“spirits”), but rather be filled with God’s Holy Spirit (the true Spirit for us to have)! Encourage one another, praise and give thanks to God “from your hearts,” even with singing. Colossians 3:16 compares to v.19.*

4. Family Life: The place and duties of the husband and wife (v.21-33)

- a. (v.21-24) **God has called the husband to be the leader of the family.** Christ is the head of the church, and God has called the husband to be the head of his family. Yet, Christ’s leadership is not a leadership of arbitrary commands and devaluing or belittling influence. Christ leads by humble, loving sacrifice—**as a servant leader** (Matthew 20:25-28). Christ teaches us to love, respect, and lead as humble servants (not thinking that we’re the only ones with a mind either). A Christ-like and godly husband will love, respect, and care for His wife; his attitude will win love and respect rather than to destroy it!! Remember always to “do unto others as you would have done unto you.” And, “a man will reap what he sows” (Matthew 7:12; Galatians 6:7). Wives will be glad to be submitted under the loving care of a truly Christ-like husband (even as we are glad to submit to Christ). **Wives may also remember**, that sometimes it is their own Christ-like love and following of God’s principles that will lead to the winning of their husbands to Christ’s way (i.e. 1 Peter 3:1-7).
- b. (v.25-33) **“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it [her].”** Consider what Christ’s love is truly like (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). Christ’s love is a self-sacrificing love. We are to “nourish” “build up” and “cherish” the wife even as one would do for his own body. Whoever shows love for their wife, gains love for their own self (v.28)—the love will truly come back to you in amazing ways!!
- c. We see the woman is here compared to the church (v.32). A woman is often used as a symbol of a church throughout the Bible, and especially in Bible prophecy!

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you prayerfully seek to walk in Christ’s holy ways, and by God’s grace, to love and respect your husband or wife? _____