

Women Pursuing Christ Through His Word

Ephesians Lesson 5 Chapter 5

In Chapter 1 Paul reminds believers of the awesome reality of their salvation. God in His sovereignty chose us before the foundation of the world, not because of anything in us but because of His love and grace. In chapter 2 he describes our hopeless position before Christ as strangers and aliens, and then the wonderful blessing of reconciliation to God through Christ's blood. We are now "fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household." Chapter 3 gives us an explanation of the mystery of the Gentiles becoming fellow heirs and members of the body of Christ which was once reserved for only Jews. This was to show the "rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places" the manifold wisdom of God. In Chapter 4 we learned what it means to "walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which we have

been called." The old man needs to disappear, and the new man should appear in the way we live (walk) our lives. This process is a result of the ministries of those gifted by God to equip the body to function properly in its new identity, and to grow up to be like Christ. Now in Chapter 5 and into the first part of chapter 6, Paul applies the truths of a new life and walking in love (v. 2) to our most personal relationships: wives, husbands, children, fathers and mothers, and slaves or employees/employers. If unity in the body is to be accomplished, we have to "be subject to one another in the fear of Christ." This unity through submission begins in the home and the workplace. It is in these places that our true nature will show most.

READ EPHESIANS CHAPTER 5

1. In v. 1, the word "imitators" is "mimites" which is where we get our English word "mimic." What is the first way (v. 2) in which we are to imitate or mimic God?

2. This love is “agapao” in the Greek, and it is used of love that is not based in feelings. In fact, it usually goes against any natural affection, is selfless, and focuses only on the welfare of those it is directed toward. According to 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, what does this love look like in action? Why do you think we as God’s children find it so hard to imitate Him in this behavior?

The list of behaviors that Paul gives in vs. 3-5 would have been the norm for people living in Ephesus. These activities were all part of their worship of idols and normal pagan behavior.

Using www.biblehub.com, define or give a description of each of the negative behaviors Paul identifies.

Instructions for biblehub.com:

At the very top of the webpage, choose Ephesians chapter 5 and the Strong’s NASB or KJV under the “Version” drop-down menu. Once you see the verses listed below, you can click on the words you wish to define. If you do not have Internet access, you can also use a printed Greek dictionary to complete this exercise.

Behavior NASB/KJV

Definition/description

Immorality/fornication

Impurity/uncleaness

Greed/coveteousness

Filthiness

Silly talk/foolish talking

Course jesting

3. According to Eph. 5:8-10, why are the behaviors of vs. 3-5 “not fitting” for the saints?

4. *In what ways are these behaviors a product of the flesh? What should our response to them be? Eph. 5:11; Rom. 6:11-14; 1 Cor. 6:17-20*

5. *From vs. 15-20, how are we instructed to take action in the evil days we live in?*



Word Study

The words “be subject to” (NAS) or “submit” (NIV) in the Greek is hupotasso which is a military term referring to rank or levels of authority. In verse 21 it refers to a mutual and voluntary subordination to one another within the body of Christ as a whole. This is an action of free agents and doesn’t mean breaking the will of another or being dominated by another’s rule but is a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden.

New International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

6. *Why is it so important for the church to submit to one another? Why would this attitude be foundational for the function of the home?*

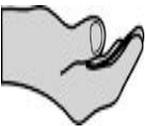
7. *According to vs. 23-30, who is to be the model for a husband in learning how to fulfill their role of leadership? In v. 24, who is the model for wives in learning how to submit to their husband’s role as leader?*

8. *If you are a wife, what are some of your biggest obstacles to fulfilling your role as described in v. 24? If you aren't married, how does v. 21 play itself out in your life?*



In v. 33 Paul repeats his command for husbands to love their wives, but instead of telling wives to “submit” (see question 6-a military term meaning to rank under) to husbands as he did in v. 22, he tells them now to “respect” their husband. The word “respect” (reverence) in the Greek is “phobeo” which means “to fear, to be afraid” or “to show reverential fear.” This term here seems to be stressing the response we have to the authority structure God has established. He set the structure between husband and wife (vs. 23-28) to model the love Christ has for His church and our submission to Him (v. 21). The responsibility that God has given to a husband is to reveal the love of Christ for the church in the way he loves and sacrificially cares for his wife. The responsibility God has given to a wife is to respect (fear) that elevated position of authority in her husband to model the church’s response to the leadership of Christ. The male position of authority is only secondary to Christ’s position of authority. This carries with it immense responsibility and accountability. These positions have nothing to do with personal value of men or women; they reveal the wisdom of God in His establishment of authority.

Family relationships can be some of the most challenging for us in living out the life of Christ. Because God is good, and we know His ways are right and true, we can trust that following His structure for these relationships is the way to healthy marriages and family life.



Make it practical:

In what areas of your family life do you see need for change to begin applying God’s principles for your family? What steps can you take this week to begin implementing that change?

This week I will:

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
