



“Drawing From the Well”

“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3

Womens Ministry of Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship

EPHESIANS 5:1-21

Lesson 8

“To many Christians Christ is little more than an idea, or at best an ideal; He is not a fact. Millions of professed believers talk as if He were real and act as if He were not. And always, our actual position is to be discovered by the way we act, not by the way we talk.”

A.W. Tozer

Man by nature is a mimic. A child learns how to walk, talk, eat properly and function in the culture in which he is growing up by following his parent’s example. Paul teaches us how a Christian should copy or imitate God as a child does his parents. If we are the children of God, we ought to imitate our Heavenly Father. This is the foundation for the three admonitions in this section of Ephesians chapter 5.

“**God is love**” (1 John 4:8)...therefore... “**Walk in love**” (Ephesians 5:1-2). “**God is light**” (1 John 1:5)...therefore... “**Walk as children of light**” (Ephesians 5:8). “**God is truth**” (1 John 5:6)...therefore... “**Walk in wisdom**” (Ephesians 5:15-17). Each of these “walks” is part of Paul’s exhortation to walk in purity. Before you begin, read **Ephesians 5:1-21** to get an overview of what Paul is trying to communicate.

DAY ONE: Ephesians 5:1-4

1. Read **Ephesians 5:1-21** to get a picture of the overall message Paul is trying to get across.
2. Today we will focus on **Ephesians 5:1-4**. To help us understand the impact of what he is telling us in the first few verses, use your study tools to look up the following words.
 - a. *Followers* (#3402)
 - b. *Offering* (#4376)
 - c. *Sacrifice* (#2378)
3. In what specific area is Paul concerned that Christians should imitate God?

Challenge: Read **Leviticus 1-3** where it tells about the sweet-savor offerings. The burnt offering pictures Christ’s complete devotion to God. The meal offering shows His perfection of character. The peace offering shows Him making peace between God and sinners.

4. According to these verses and **Romans 5:6-8**, what example is given to help us understand the quality of love about which he speaks?
5. How do the following verses tell you to be an imitator of Christ’s love?
 - a. **John 13:13-17**
 - b. **John 15:12-13**

c. **1 John 3:16-18**

6. What is Paul contrasting in the first four verses of this chapter?
7. Look up the following words using your study tools from **Ephesians 5:3-4**.
- a. **Fornication** (#4202) - For further insight, see **1 Corinthians 6:15-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3**
 - b. **Uncleanness** (#167) - For further insight, see **1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; 2 Peter 2:10**
 - c. **Covetousness** (#4124) - For further insight, see **Exodus 20:17; Romans 7:7**

1) Considering the Scriptures, why do you think these first three are linked together?

2) What does Paul say about these traits in **Ephesians 5:3**?

d. **Filthiness** (#151)

e. **Foolish talking** (#3473)

f. **Jesting** (#2160)

1) What alternative to dirty stories, coarse talk, sarcasm or flippancy of speech is given in **Ephesians 5:4**?

8. What should be the standard of conversation for the Christian according to Colossians 4:6? (Can you think of any other Scriptures?)

*“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all generations.”*

Psalm 100:4-5

DAY TWO: Ephesians 5:5-14

1. Prayerfully re-read **Ephesians 5:1-14**. What two reasons does Paul give in verses 5 and 6 for his clear commands in verse 3?
- a.
 - b.

2. **Verses 5-6** might imply that no one who sins through immorality, impurity or greed can be saved. How does **Romans 8:1-5** shed light on these verses?

Personal: Are you involved in any of the patterns of behavior that Paul warns against in **verses 3-5**? If so, what steps will you take to turn away from this sin? Read **Ephesians 5:7**.

Note: In **Ephesians 5:8**, notice that Paul doesn't say we were in darkness – he says we were darkness. In other words, we were not just *victims* of Satan's system, we were *contributors*.

Finish this statement from **Ephesians 5:9**... “*For the fruit of the Spirit is... _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.*”

3. Light and darkness are the ultimate contrast – total opposites. God has called us to be light in a dark world. The only way we can be effective is to walk as children of light without doing the deeds of darkness. In **Ephesians 5:8-14**, Paul tells us things we need to know if we want to walk as children of light. Look up the following Scriptures and write down how they explain what it means to “*walk as children of light.*”
- a. **Philippians 2:15**
 - b. **Colossians 1:12-14**
 - c. **1 Peter 2:9-10**
 - d. **1 John 1:5-7**
4. How are the *unfruitful works of darkness* described according to the following Scriptures?
- a. **Ephesians 5:3-7**
 - b. **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**
 - c. **Romans 1:28-32**
5. What are we to do to the *unfruitful works of darkness* according to the following Scriptures?
- a. **Ephesians 5:11**
 - b. **Titus 2:12**
 - c. **2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

6. Have you ever been in a situation that your mere presence (as a Christian) has convicted others? If so, share with your group.

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

7. **Ephesians 5:14** (above) is probably a quotation from an early Christian hymn, possibly a baptismal chant. Underline the promise it gives to those who become Christians?

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people,
that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light".
1 Peter 2:9*

DAY THREE: Ephesians 5:15-17

1. This is a short day today. Spend some time in prayer drawing close to Him. Ask Him to reveal His Truth to you as you study today. Read **Ephesians 5:15-17**. Then look up the following words using your study tools:
- a. **Ye Walk** (#4043)
 - b. **Circumspectly** (#199)
 - c. **Fools** (#781)
 - d. **Wise** (#4680)
 - e. **Redeeming** (#1805)
2. What does it mean to "walk circumspectly?"
- a. Why do you think it is important to walk so carefully in today's world? (**1 Peter 5:8**)
3. Read **Proverbs 2** out loud and then write down how it relates to **Ephesians 5:15**.
4. What does it mean to "redeem the time?"
- a. Why should we "redeem the time?"
5. What does Paul have to say about redeeming the time in **Romans 13:11-14**?
6. Now look up **Ecclesiastes 9:10-12** and see what it says. Really think about this one! Write down your thoughts and share with your group.

- a. How can you make the most of every opportunity as a Christian? Write out **Ephesians 5:15-17** in your own words, adding anything that spoke to your heart from the other verses as well.

DAY FOUR: Ephesians 5:18-21

1. Prayerfully read **Ephesians 5:18-21**. Paul is contrasting being “*drunk with wine*” with being “*filled with the Spirit*.” Those who witnessed the Holy Spirit’s first descent at Pentecost notice similarities between the two states. (See **Acts 2:13**). Think about how alcohol affects a drunken person. How is being filled with the Spirit like, but also opposite to, being drunk? (Also see **Romans 8:5-14**).

2. **Dissipation** (#810) means *wasteful in the pursuit of pleasure; a harmful diversion*. How could being under the influence of any foreign substance (i.e. alcohol, drugs, etc) hinder in our effort to “*redeem the time?*”

3. What is part of the role of the Holy Spirit according to the following verses?
 - a. **Luke 12:12**

 - b. **John 14:15-17**

 - c. **John 16:12-13**

4. How do you become filled with the Holy Spirit according to **Luke 11:13**?

5. What are the effects of the filling of the Spirit?
 - a. **John 14:26**

 - b. **Acts 1:8 & Acts 4:31**

 - c. **Romans 14:17**

In the Wycliffe Bible Commentary, Alfred Martin writes, “*A believer can never obtain more of the Holy Spirit, for He indwells the Christian’s life in all His fullness. But the Holy Spirit can get more of the believer; that is, he can exercise complete control of the life that is fully yielded to Him.*”

6. According to **Ephesians 5:19-21**, in what other way is the filling of the Spirit manifested in the believer?
 - a. To God:

 - b. To Others:

7. What is the *fruit* of the Holy Spirit according to **Galatians 5:22** (There is one fruit of the Spirit followed by eight adjectives that define the fruit, list them all here).

Personal: Have you ever been baptized with the Holy Spirit? If you are having trouble understanding this, please come forward after the overview and someone will try to help you with your questions. It is simple if we stick to the Word of God! **God is so good!** He wants to bless as you fully surrender your life to Him! Write down any questions you have here and let's reason together from God's Word!

FIFTH DAY: Review of Ephesians 5:1-21

1. As a summary of **Ephesians 5:1-21**, list on the following chart the thoughts, words, and actions that characterize the old life (darkness) and the new life in Christ (light).

	Light	Darkness
Thoughts		
Words		
Actions		

Personal: Take time today to pray about any area of your life that you are keeping in darkness – that is, not trying to find out what pleases the heart of God. (Since there are may be some sin that you aren't even aware of, ask God to show you anything you are doing that is displeasing to Him.) If you need prayer, please ask your group or come forward after the overview. We are a family and all have struggles. God wants to meet each of us where we are. Won't you come to Him?

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart;
 Try me, and know my anxieties;
 And see if there is any wicked way in me,
 And lead me in the way everlasting.”
 Psalm 139:23-24*

2. Take the following Scripture as a promise just for you. Memorize it if you can!

*“The LORD will guide you continually,
 And satisfy your soul in drought,
 And strengthen your bones;
 You shall be like a watered garden,
 And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.”
 Isaiah 58:11*