

Ephesians 5:1-21 - Living in the Household of God

Living as loved children

[Ephesians 5:1-21 ESV] 1 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.

- We are directed to i_____ (1) and walk in the love we have experienced from God.
- The love of God is the e_____ (2) that propels obedience.
- Eph 1:3-5 - in prehistory God chose us and predestined us to be adopted into his family
- Eph 1:7-9 - in past history Christ came and paid the price for our sins according to God's eternal plan of redemption, which in his kindness he has revealed to us
- Eph 1:13-14 - in our history, we were privileged to hear the gospel and believe, at which point God marked us as belonging to him by the Spirit
- Eph 2:1-7 - even though we were spiritually dead in disobedience to God and deserving wrath, because of his great love and mercy God brought us to life with Christ so that he can show kindness to us forever
- Eph 3:14-21 - Lord, strengthen our spiritually weak hearts to know and believe the love you have for us in Christ, and help us to believe that you are powerful in us to give us strength to obey, even obey joyfully.
- We keep God's commands as his children out of love and reverence for him who first loved us.
- We keep God's commands through the s_____ (3) that he provides.
- Question for application: What helps you to enjoy the love of God?

A warning against participation in sin

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.

- As children of God, there are behaviors that are out of line and should not be present in our household.
- The household of God shouldn't have a name for sexual sin and even our discussion about it shouldn't be f_____ (4) or include crude joking
- Covetousness is called idolatry here, as it places things besides God above him in our hearts. We are called to find our ultimate joy and s_____ (5) in God and to be content with what he gives us
- If you are a child of God, you have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and have a new n_____ (6) as evidence of that. The overwhelming testimony of the New Testament is that as a result of the regeneration of the Holy Spirit - being born again - you won't live in habitual, unrepentant sin. Those who do show evidence that they likely have not been converted.
- Question for application: How do you talk about sin with others? Do you fall into making light of it or telling unwise jokes?

Living as light to expose and overcome sin

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."

- What then should be our attitude toward sin and those living in patterns of sin?

- First, knowing the wrath that such sin invites, we don't p_____ (7) with them in their sin.
- Second, we live as light around them, shining through examples of a pattern of what is good, right and true, doing what is pleasing to God
- Third, we carefully aim to e_____ (8) the sin for the purpose of turning them to the light.
- Questions for application: How do the people around you, especially those who are not believers, experience the light of your life? Have you seen things in others that you would like to imitate?

Living a wise, Spirit-filled life

15 **Look carefully** then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore **do not be** foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And **do not get drunk** with wine, for that is debauchery, but **be filled** with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to **God the Father** in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- We have an opportunity in our lives to do good for God our Father. We have time, and we are to make the best use of the time. Try to recognize the o_____ (9) that God is giving.
- Being filled with the Spirit is to be under the i_____ (10) of the Spirit, allowing your mind to be shaped and controlled by the word of God. The result of being filled with the Spirit is to sing, both to one another and to God, to give thanks to God in everything, and to live humbly in our relationships with one another.
- Question for application: What would it look like for you to make the best use of your time and the opportunities that come your way to influence others?

Fill in the blanks: (1) imitate (2) engine (3) strength (4) foolish (5) satisfaction (6) nature (7) partner (8) expose (9) opportunities (10) influence