

Ephesians 5

Introduction:

In chapter 5 of his Letter to the Ephesians, Paul provides clear guidance for how you and I are to relate to others, particularly with our spouses. Some of Paul’s teaching is not popular with Satan’s worldly culture that surrounds us. Today, some will opine that Paul’s teaching is directed to the members of his Ephesian churches 2,000-years ago and has no authority over the Christian church of today. I do not believe this interpretation.

The Bible provides you and me with insights into God, including His characteristics, His love for us, His fatherly desire to mold us – like potter’s clay – into the best Believers in His Son, our Redeemer, that we can be.

The Bible was written for the people of Paul’s time . . . and for Believers throughout history, including us. We can usually understand through the context of surrounding text who the intended audience is for the specific teaching. When the audience is not discernable, then it applies to us as well. If we choose to explain-away a specific teaching – “it doesn’t apply to us, today” – then we begin a downward spiral that includes heretical teaching (see James 3:1). If you believe there is inconsistency in Biblical teaching, then please pray about it, study the passages in question, and ask others. If you ask others, be sure that you compare their words against the Truth of Scripture – be Bereans (Acts 17:10).

My point is this: all of the teachings of Ephesians 5:1-33 applies to the Ephesians of Paul’s time as well as to us Believers of today.

Chuck Tremain

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>1</sup> Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Q1. To be an “imitator of God” we must know God’s attributes (e.g., characteristics, traits, qualities); what are some of God’s attributes?

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Q2. What does it mean to be an “imitator of God . . . as dearly loved children”?

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Q3. What does it mean to “live a life of love”?

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Q4. As an “imitator of God” how are we to interact with the world? With our unbelieving neighbor?

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Q5. How was Christ Jesus a “fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”?

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Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>3</sup> But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. <sup>4</sup> Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

Q6. Does this mean that we are not to enjoy fellowship with other Believers? Are we never to crack a smile? Did Jesus ever enjoy “life”?

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Q7. For what are we to give thanks?

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Q8. How would you answer someone who says, “I’m human; I’m not perfect. Does that mean I can never be one of ‘God’s holy people’?”

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Q9. Why are these behaviors (i.e., immorality, impurity, obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse joking) “out of place”?

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<sup>5</sup> For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure, or greedy person -- such a man is an idolater -- has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Q10. Why would an immoral, impure, or greedy person be considered an idolater?

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Q11. Why would an idolater not receive any “inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ”?

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Q12. Does this mean that an “immoral, impure, or greedy person” cannot go to Heaven?

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**Romans 6:16-18** Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey — whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Paul, who taught so wonderfully about obedience leading to righteousness, also struggled with earthly sin. He confessed: **Romans 7:24-25<sup>a</sup>** What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this [physical] body of death? Thanks be to God -- through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be partners with them.

Q13. How would you identify “empty words”?

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**2 Corinthians 6:14** Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

Q14. In verse 7, Paul urges us “do not be partners”. How do you define “partnership”?

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 Partner: One that is united or associated with another or others in an activity or a sphere of common interest, especially: (a) A member of a business partnership. (b) A spouse. . . [<https://www.thefreedictionary.com/partner>]

Q15. Jesus commands us in the Great Commission to “... go and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28.19). Therefore, we have to work with and minister to non-believers. Does Jesus’ Great Commission contradict Paul’s writing: “do not be partners with them”?

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<sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth) <sup>10</sup>and find out what pleases the Lord.

Q16. What does Paul mean when he says that we “were once darkness”?

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Q17. What happened so that we are now considered “light in the Lord”?

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Q18. What is “fruit”? Is “fruit” important”?

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**Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

**John 15:1-4** [Jesus taught,] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Q19. How can we "find out what pleases the Lord"?

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**Day 4**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

Q20. Why did Paul teach that it is important to "expose" the "fruitless deeds of darkness"?

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Q21. Are we to expose "fruitless deeds" in the church?

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Q22. Are we to expose "fruitless deeds" in society? If yes, the words we use can drive a person away or draw them; in general, how do we follow Christ's lead and obediently draw sinners to the love of Christ Jesus?

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<sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Q23. What does "light" represent?

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**John 1:3-5** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

**Matthew 5:14-16** "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

**John 3:19-21** This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

**Day 5**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live -- not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Q24. In verse 10 Paul tells us to “find out what pleases the Lord”. In verse 17 he tells us to “understand what the Lord's will is”. What do we have available to us that enables us to discern what the Lord wants?

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<sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Q25. How does wine lead to “debauchery”? (Debauchery is defined by Merriam-Webster as “extreme indulgence in sensuality”.)

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Q26. How can we “be filled with the Spirit”?

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<sup>19</sup> Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Q27. What human traits do you usually associate with today’s churches? (Praise? Worship? Gossip? In-fighting? Legalism? Do as I say, not as I do? Hypocrisy? Truth?)

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Q28. What would our churches be like if we spoke “to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs”?

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Q29. Do you give “thanks to God the Father for everything”?

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**Day 6**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Q30. What does “submit” mean to you?

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Q31. How can we “Submit to one another”?

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Q32. What does it mean to submit to one another “out of reverence for Christ”?

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Q33. What can you change in yourself to emulate Paul’s teaching and improve the atmosphere in your church?

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