

EPHESIANS

Lesson 7 - Chapter 5:1-14

Paul continues with his instruction on walking worthy in this chapter, beginning with the first verse, “*Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.*” Much of what children learn is by imitating their parents, so Paul urges the children of God to imitate His love and His light in our walk.

As you continue this part of the study on *walking worthy*, pray for the Lord to open your eyes to Who He is and to give you all you need to imitate Him and to bring Him glory.

Key Word(s)

Read through the entire chapter, looking for words or themes that are repeated. Make note of those words and their significance here.

Memory Verse – This week’s memory verse is Matthew 5:16.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Read Ephesians 5:1-2.

1. Ephesians 5:1 tells us, “*Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.*”

a. *Therefore* refers us back to Ephesians 4:32. What example are we reminded of in this verse that we should imitate?

b. What relationship are we reminded of in Ephesians 5:1 with the words “...*as dear children*”?

c. From John 1:12, how do we become children of God?

2. What attribute of God are we exhorted to imitate in Ephesians 5:2?

a. “*Walk in love...*” To love there must be a recipient. Who are we to walk in love toward?

b. What example is given in this verse to show us the quality of love we are to imitate?

c. How does 1 John 3:16 add to the instruction on *walking in love*?

3. Consider the last half of Ephesians 5:2.

a. How does Paul describe Christ's sacrifice for us in this verse?

b. What does this mean to you?

4. Think back over your walk in the last week. Has your life been a sweet-smelling aroma to God? Why or why not?

Read Ephesians 5:3-7.

1. We have just seen that God's love and the love He calls His children to walk in is self-sacrificing, forgiving and unconditional.

a. What is the first sin in Ephesians 5:3 that we are not to take part in?

b. Define this word.

c. In what ways is this the opposite of God's kind of love?

2. What do the following scriptures have to say about this?

a. 1 Corinthians 6:15-18

b. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

3. What is the second sin mentioned in Ephesians 5:3?
 - a. Write a definition for this word.
 - b. What behaviors might represent this sin in a person's walk?

4. There is a third sin listed in Ephesians 5:3 that we are to avoid. What is it?
 - a. Write a definition here.
 - b. How can covetousness be an opposite of love?

5. Ephesians 5:4 continues the list of those things which are "*not even to be named among you*" with "*filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting...*" Filthiness can also be translated obscenity, so all three of these refer to a person's speech.
 - a. What harm is there in this type of talk?
 - b. Instead, how should the conversations of a Christian be described? Include scriptures if you can.
 - c. What alternative speech is given in verse 4? Include another scripture on this.

6. What warnings are in the following scriptures about our speech?
 - a. Matthew 12:34-35
 - b. James 3:4-7

7. Paul has given clear instruction on behaviors not to be found among the children of God. He next gives the reasons to avoid these things. Write what you find about this in each verse below.

a. Ephesians 5:5

b. Ephesians 5:6

8. Ephesians 5:5-6 might make it seem hopeless for someone who gives in to the temptation of one of these sins, but with the help of the Lord, it is not.

a. What does Colossians 3:5 say to do?

b. What motivates you to choose to put away these things?

c. Write the hope of 1 John 1:9 here.

9. Write the simple command of Ephesians 5:7 below.

Read Ephesians 5:8-14.

God has called us to be a light in a dark world. The only way we can do this is to walk as children of light, having nothing to do with the deeds of darkness. In Ephesians 5:8-14, Paul gives us five things we need to know if we want to walk as children of light.

1. *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”* (Ephesians 5:8)

a. What does 1 John 1:5-7 say about walking in the light?

b. What does it mean to you to *walk in the light*?

2. “...for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:9-10)

- a. What are the fruit listed here?

- b. How do you find out what is acceptable to the Lord?

3. “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness...” (Ephesians 5:11a)

- a. What are works of darkness?

- b. How are they described in this verse?

4. “...but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.” (Ephesians 5:11b-13)

- a. Write a definition that explains what it means to *expose* something.

- b. How can we *expose* the works of darkness in our own life?

This verse in the NLT says, “*But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them.*” It is only when any work of darkness is brought into the light that it can be dealt with.

5. “Therefore He says: ‘Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.’” (Ephesians 5:14)

- a. How are those who walk in darkness described here?

- b. What hope do you find in this verse?

6. What do you find in Matthew 5:14-16 that applies to Ephesians 5:8-14?

In closing...

1. We have been instructed to *walk in love* this week, but it is not always an easy thing to do.

a. When do you find it difficult to *walk in love*?

b. What helps you to *love* when you don't feel like it?

2. We've also been looking at walking in the light. What does *walking in the light* look like in your daily life?

Memory Verse

*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

Matthew 5:16