

Ephesians 5:1-21

- 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;
- 5:2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
- 5:3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;
- 5:4 and *there must be no* filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.
- 5:5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
- 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
- 5:7 Therefore do not be partakers with them;
- 5:8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light
- 5:9 (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth),
- 5:10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
- 5:11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;
- 5:12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.
- 5:13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.
- 5:14 For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you."
- 5:15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,
- 5:16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.
- 5:17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
- 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,
- 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;
- 5:20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;
- 5:21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Questions Ephesians 5:1-21

1. The Greek words translated "immorality" and "impurity" together cover every kind of sexual sin. To them Paul adds "greed" or covetousness. Why does he juxtapose them? So what are we to avoid? (vs. 3).
2. Look more closely at "filthiness" (obscenity), "silly talk" and "coarse jesting." What kind of speech are we to avoid (vs. 4)?
3. Based on what you found in vs. 3-4, what is our standard as Christians for sexuality? How far-reaching is it? How would this standard have affected the Ephesians in their culture? (Look at how the Artemis cult viewed sexuality.) How does this view of sexuality affect us in our culture?
4. What are we to do instead? (vs. 4) Why is this a valid "alternative" for immorality, impurity, and coarse jesting? What does it imply about a Christian view of sexuality?
5. What is God's response to immorality, impurity & coveting? (vs. 5-6) How certain is this response? Who or what would have deceived the Ephesians? Could that also deceive us?
6. Given God's response to this lifestyle, what should our response be? (7-14) Paul uses the metaphor of light and dark. What does he mean by it? Look at the other times he uses light and dark in Ephesians. What do light and dark represent? What does that mean in practice? What should our attitude be toward darkness and its lifestyle?

7. How are Christians to walk? (vs. 15-18) What characterizes wise people? "Making the most of your time" is literally "redeeming" or "buying back" your time. Why would Paul pick that word for how we should spend our time? What does that say about walking wisely?

8. What are the results of walking wisely? (vs. 18-21) What should our speech be centered around? What attitude should we have? Consider the juxtaposition of "giving thanks" in this section. How do "giving thanks" and "being subject" fit in? Note: Several pagan cults of the day regarded intoxication as a means to inspiration from their god(s).