

## Walking in the Love of Christ– Ephesians 5



MEMORY VERSE: Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2

### DAY 1 Ephesians 5:1-7 — Walk in Love

1. Remember that Paul is speaking to believers, the church, in this letter. How does he describe them and what must they do? vv.1-2
2. What behaviors must never be found among God's children and what should be there instead? vv. 3-5
3. What insight does 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 give you about sin in the church among believers vs. sin outside of the church among unbelievers?
4. Why are verses 6 and 7 vital for God's beloved children to grasp?

Isaiah 5:20

Hebrews 10:26-27

5. What core differences do you see between Christ's actions (v. 2) and the sinful behaviors that are out of place for believers?

### DAY 2 Ephesians 5:8-14 — Walk in Light

6. Think about qualities of light and darkness. Why do you think evil is characterized as darkness?

John 3:19-21

### LEARN THE TRUTH

After exhorting followers of Christ to put off the old life and walk in the new life, Paul now explains the importance of walking in the love and wisdom of Christ as God's beloved children. The lifestyle of God's people is crucial for the unbelieving world to see. God's design is what everyone needs!

7. What qualities of physical light do you see in the description of those who are “light in the Lord?”
8. Believers are told to take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead to expose them. How can one expose sin when it is shameful to even speak of such things?
9. What insight does 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 give you regarding the old life and the new life in Christ?
10. In the context of this Ephesians passage, what do you think God’s immediate concern is for: Those who are redeemed by Christ?

People living in darkness?

### DAY 3 Ephesians 5:15-21 — Walking in Wisdom

11. How did Paul exhort believers to live? Why is this so important? vv. 15-17
12. What do you think it means to make the best use of time?
13. What did Paul say about God’s will? Why do you think each quality is important? vv. 18-21
14. Have you seen benefits, or disfunction, because these qualities were, or were not, part of a group?
15. How can we know God’s will, and how can we then fulfill it?  
Psalm 119:105  
  
Galatians 5:16  
  
John 15:5

### DAY 4 Ephesians 5:21-33 — Wives and Husbands

16. What is the definition of “submit” or “submission?”
17. Is your initial reaction to the word, “submission” positive or negative? Why do you think this is?

18. Why do you think mutual submission (v. 21) benefits relationships?
19. God's design for marriage resembles His design for the church. What is the relationship between Christ and the church? vv. 23-25
20. What did Christ do for the men and women who are the church ? vv. 25-27
21. What insight does Christ's relationship with the church give you regarding marriage?

## DAY 5 Ephesians 5:21-33 — Wives and Husbands (continued)

22. What instructions about marriage did Paul give to the Ephesian believers for:  
Wives vv.22-24, 33

Husbands vv.25, 28-33

23. What specific instructions did Peter give about marriage in his letter to persecuted Christians?  
Wives 1 Peter 3:1-4

Husbands 1 Peter 3:7

24. How has this study challenged, comforted or inspired you regarding walking in the light of love and/or submission?
25. What blessings have you seen when you, or someone you know, embrace these truths?

### LOVE THE TRUTH

Sin destroys lives, relationships and marriages. But God's commands are for our benefit, leading to blessing, victory and fulfillment. Men and women are equal valuable members of God's family, the church, and each are called to submit. When we submit to God, relationships thrive and we are all blessed.

## Ephesians 5

### Walking in Love

God wants His beloved children to imitate Him by walking in love as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us. This kind of sacrificial love is a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. This lifestyle not only glorifies God and benefits us, but is appealing to people who don't know God, yet need and want Him.

Part of walking in love means getting rid of sin in our lives, not to insure our salvation, which is by grace alone, but so that we can enjoy God's best for us. When a person claims to be a believer but continues practicing sin as a habit, they are actually rejecting Christ. "No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God." (1 John 3:9) We are told not to become partners with people who accept, excuse and even celebrate their sin.

And yet, no matter how much we love God, we still live in the flesh and still battle sin. Salvation in Christ means we are free from the power and penalty of sin, but we will not be free from the presence of sin until heaven. Paul said, "For I do not understand my own actions... For I do not do what I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing... Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:15-25) We are in a battle, and as God's beloved children, we must call sin sin and, rather than justifying it, we confess and repent, and are forgiven.

Remember that God loves everyone and wants none to perish but all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9), so our lifestyles are crucial for drawing others to Christ. Some prefer darkness and will hate us for our holiness, but others will see our lives and recognize their own sin and need for a Savior. How can people understand why Christ had to die for sin if our lifestyles give the impression that it is ok to keep on sinning?

While we are not to partner with evil, we are indeed to partner with the body of Christ. Fellowship and unity in the church is an incredible blessing. When we walk by the power of the spirit, singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with other believers, and make melody to the Lord in our hearts, giving thanks to the Lord, life takes on new meaning. When we assign proper value to God and to His people, we experience joy and purpose. We are also then free to be our unique selves as we serve God. He tells us to submit to one another out of reverence to Christ. When we grasp the purpose and benefit of mutual submission, God can do anything through us.

### WALK IN TRUTH



Marriage is one of the most beautiful pictures of Christ and the church. A strong marriage is a powerful witness for Christ. It is natural to rebel against the idea of "submission" because sin has tainted the whole idea. Submission in marriage is about value and purpose, rather than power and subservience. When a wife yields to her husband and respects him, he is empowered to be the man God intends him to be. When a husband cherishes his wife, living sacrificially with understanding, loving his wife as himself, it empowers her to be the woman God intended her to be.

We are selfish and flawed people, surrounded by bad examples of marriage. But we can have good marriages. Aside from cases of adultery or abuse, what is most often needed is mutual submission, committed leadership from the husband and supportive honesty from the wife. God honors marriages where both are strong, equal and effective partners for life whose marriages then impact others.

# Notes