

Ephesians 5

Ephesians 5.1-7 – Walking in love

V1 – We imitate the God that we worship

- Do children imitate their fathers?** Yes, when they love their fathers
- We will develop righteousness when we practice it
- We are not converted if our lives are not changed

V2 – “Walk in love”

- What example do we have to follow in the area of love?** Jesus gave his life for us

V3 – **More sins to avoid?** Immorality (fornication), impurity, greed

- V3 – We should not have even the idea of these things
- Not “named” among you, must less be practiced – we are not to dabble in these things

V4 – “Filthiness” – **Explain?** Nothing dirty or obscene

- Silly talk, as with person who is drunk, “*coarse jesting*” (jokes that are borderline, words with two meanings used to be funny, the “double entendre”)
- What should characterize our speech instead?** The giving of thanks

V5 – **Which people will have no inheritance?** The immoral and covetous

- Why is covetousness called idolatry?** It is the worship of material things

V6 – Don’t be deceived with empty words

V7 – Don’t be partakers with these things

Ephesians 5.8-14

V8 – **The point?** We as Christians cannot remain neutral in the world – either we are darkness or we are light (no room for shade or partly cloudy)

- How should we be walking?** As children of light

V9 – **How will people know we are children of light?** They will see goodness, righteousness, and truth in us

V10 – **Our goal?** To be pleasing to the Lord

V11 – **What should our attitude be toward the deeds of the world?** Not to participate in them, but to expose them

V12 – Very interesting – Some sins are so awful that it is not easy to talk about them (example: abortion, homosexuality, etc.)

V 13 – What will be the effect of Christians on a society? They will gradually purify it

V 14 – **Meaning of v 14?** The light of Christ will raise us from the old life of deadness

-This seems to be several Scriptures put together (not from any one passage)

-Many commentators believe that is probably a First Century church hymn – everyone knew it (like *Rock of Ages* or *Just As I am* today)

Ephesians 5.15-21

V 15 – Exhortation to walking properly, to walk according to wisdom

V 16 – What does it mean to “*make the most of your time*”? Don’t waste time

-**Why would wasting time be dangerous?** The days are evil, and it is easy to get into trouble

V 17 – Study the will of God

V 18 – Warning about getting drunk

-**Rather than filling up on wine, what should we fill up with?** The Holy Spirit instead (with his message in the completed Scriptures)

V 19 – This is one of about 13 vv. in the New Testament which tell us to sing to one another

-**Is there any room in v 19 for mechanical instruments of music?** No – speaking, singing, making melody in our hearts

-Psalms – Psalms set to music

-Hymns – regular hymns of the church

-Songs – songs which cultivate a deeply emotional and spiritual feeling (such as "My God and I")

-**Why would it be unwise to add instruments of music to worship?** It would be the first of many additions, it stifles singing, and there is no authority for it

V 20 – More emphasis on giving thanks

V 21 – Putting needs of each other first

Ephesians 5.22-33 – Husband and wife = Christ and the church

V 22 – Not a very popular verse in many circles today

-Many unhappy people in world today think that happiness comes from total, unbridled freedom

-Freedom to kill unborn children, to leave a marriage partner at will, to buy whatever people want to buy, etc.

-But when we enter into marriage, the man must assume the leadership in the family

-**Does this mean that women are inferior to men?** No, in some ways women are superior,

but they have different skills and abilities

- But someone has to assume leadership, and God has designated that role to the husband
- The wife must not let the husband make her violate her principles of righteousness
- Most unhappy of all families are where the wife is the head of the family
- In that situation, the wife and the husband are both unhappy
- The wife is unhappy that she has a husband who has given up his role as the head of the family
- The husband is also miserable, because he knows that he should be the leader in the family
- She would respect and love husband more if he had more of a backbone

V 23 – **Does the husband get off with no responsibility?** No, look at the implications of v 23

- What is the relationship of Christ and the church?** He is the savior of the church (not a tyrant or dictator)
- This same relationship should exist between husband and wife
- Remember that Eve was taken from the rib of Adam, not his head or his foot

V 24 – **How far back in the Bible does this principle of the wife being subject to her husband go?** *Genesis 3.16* – Eve sinned first, and this was part of the punishment

V 25 – Notice Paul had to command the husbands to love their wives

- For some this must have presented a problem
- Some, apparently, were not loving their wives
- Christ loved the church enough to give his life for it
- Christ was willing to make any sacrifice for the church
- Husbands are to have a sacrificial love for their wives
- So marriage is not a case of each partner demanding his or her rights
- But rather the wife is to allow her husband be the head of the family, and the husband is to love his wife and sacrifice for her

V 26 – This is a reference to baptism

- In other words, the church is not perfect
- Therefore we must allow for imperfections in the husband and the wife

V 27 – Jesus sanctified the church and made it pure

V 28 – **How much then should husbands love their wives?** As much as they love themselves

- Great message: before we mistreat our wife, we must ask ourselves: "Would I do this to myself?"

V 29 – We don't mistreat ourselves

V 30 – Jesus doesn't mistreat us, because we are members of his body

V 31 – **Where is this quote from?** *Genesis 2.24* and *Matthew 19.5*

- Any great messages (or principles) of marriage are given here?** A man and a woman

must leave their parents
-Sexual relations are legitimate in marriage

V 32 – What kind of mystery is Paul talking about here? The beauty and love that we find in marriage

-Marriage is a great and beautiful mystery

-how two people can devote their lives to each other

-how they can bring children into the world

-how they can live together in peace for 20-30-40-even 50 years (until death separates them)

-Have you ever noticed how a husband and wife begin looking like each other over the years?

-If possible, see this article: *National Geographic Magazine*, Jan. 1984, p. 84 (older couple from Alaska)

-Of course, the ultimate message of this passage is referring to the relationship of Christ and the church (but marriage is his illustration)

-So what is the theme of this passage? Christ and church

V 33 – The summary on this subject

-Two great principles? The husband is to love his wife, and the wife is to respect her husband

-If v 33 were practiced by all married people, divorces would come to an end!

Illustrations for this chapter:

1. There was an accountant who reluctantly agreed to babysit the children while his wife went on a shopping trip one Saturday. When she returned, he handed her a note which read:

-Dried tears – 9 times

-Tied shoes – 13 times

-Toy balloons purchased – 3 per child

-Average life of balloons – 13 seconds

-Cautioned children not to cross street – 21 times

-Children crossed street – 21 times

-Number of times I will do this again – 0

2. Questions for husbands to answer:

1. Is your appearance and dress as neat, nice, and attractive as it was when you were dating your wife?

2. Do you take your wife out to eat as often as you did when you were dating?

3. Do you bring your wife gifts as often as you did when you were dating, and remember special days?

4. Do you speak and act as kindly to your wife now as you did when you were dating?

5. Do you call your wife on the telephone as frequently now as you did when you were dating?

6. Do you sit with your wife now as then?

7. Do you walk with your wife in the same manner as when you were dating?

8. Do you open the car door for her as you did when you were dating?
There is a need for these courtesies in the marriage relationship. "The bonds of matrimony are a better investment when the interest is kept up."

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