

**Ephesians Chapter 5:1-21**  
**Week 7 – Ephesians MidWeek Bible Study**  
**17 January 2024**

“The man who is asleep does not care what becomes of his neighbors; how can he while he is asleep? And oh! Some of you Christians do not care whether souls are saved or damned... It is enough for them if they are comfortable. If they can attend a respectable place of worship and go with others to heaven, they are indifferent about everything else.” - Spurgeon

**GROUP GATHERING (~10minutes)**

1. Read Ephesians 5:1-21 together (allow multiple people to read)
2. Discuss what you notice, what verses or words stand out to you, what connections you see being made.
3. What questions or confusion do you have that you hope to learn tonight?

**Inductive Bible Study Review**

<b>STEP 1: OBSERVE</b>	<b>STEP 2: INTERPRET</b>	<b>STEP 3: APPLY</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“What does it say?”</b> Ask good questions, make observations, pray “to notice”</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“What did it mean?”</b> What did Paul mean to write to these Ephesians? How did they understand it? What did Paul mean?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“What does it mean?”</b> What do these chunks of Scripture have to say to us? How will we live differently because of their messages?</p>

**Reminders / Context**

**<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators<sup>1</sup> of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. <sup>3</sup>But sexual immorality<sup>2</sup> and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup>Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking,<sup>3</sup> which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.<sup>4</sup>**

**GROUP TABLE DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Our culture loves to idolize and prop-up celebrities of all sorts. Discuss: 1) Who the culture tells us we should be imitating and what type of people we slowly become when we agree to idolize those people and 2) How have you experienced God shaping you as you imitate Him?

**<sup>5</sup>For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.**

**<sup>7</sup>Therefore do not become partners<sup>5</sup> with them; <sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.<sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose**

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<sup>1</sup> Μιμητής – “The positive copying or imitation that arises by admiring the pattern set by someone worthy of emulation” (HELPS #3402) (where we get our English word “mimic”).

<sup>2</sup> πορνεία – fornication, whoredom, illicit sexual expression; (where we get our English word “pornography”).

<sup>3</sup> εὐτραπέλεια – coarse jesting, humor at the expense of another, facetiousness; in context most scholars agree Paul is using the word to describe intentionally lude, crass, or sexually explicit speech. Think: 9<sup>th</sup> grade boy locker room talk.

<sup>4</sup> Pastor and commentator David Guzik writes on this passage that “we do not avoid these things in order to achieve sainthood, but we are already declared saints by the blood of Jesus, these prohibitions are to help us act accordingly!”

<sup>5</sup> συμμετοχος – partaking with or jointly venturing alongside; describes a close, mutually beneficial relationship often used between business partners.

them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible,<sup>14</sup> for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

**GROUP TABLE DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Share from your own life: In what way(s) have you walked in darkness until God exposed those things with his light? Why is it sometimes very difficult to recognize darkness while you’re walking in it?

<sup>15</sup> Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine,<sup>6</sup> for that is debauchery,<sup>7</sup> but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence<sup>8</sup> for Christ.

**GROUP TABLE DISCUSSION:** How will you pursue “walking in the light” this week? How can your group pray for you to do exactly that? Pray together before dismissing.

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<sup>6</sup> The Roman god Bacchus (Greek “Dionysus”) was the god of “wine & vine” and represented the ultimate ancient hedonism, with many participating in cultic worship through drunkenness, practices to lead to intentional psychological distress/frenzy, orgies, etc. Many scholars believe that Paul is addressing these very common practice through Ephesians.

<sup>7</sup> ἄσωτία – wastefulness, wantonness, excessive behavior leading to serious consequences; “an abandoned man, one that cannot be saved because he has ultimately abandoned his own life and responsibilities and intentionally taken on the character of a prodigal” (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon, Strong’s #810).

<sup>8</sup> Φόβος – rightly placed fear, reverence, respect