



Sunday October 02, 2016
Ephesians 5:1-21 : Be filled with the Spirit

Today we will cover Ephesians 5:1-21

Lets read this passage through first and then we will study it together.

The New Creation Life : Imitate God, Walk in Love

Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Paul is continuing from what we saw last week in Chapter 4, challenging believers to live according to the new man we have become inside.

We no longer have a sinful nature. We have a new man, we are partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:3). We have the life and nature of God, the zoe, God-kind of life inside our human spirit. This new man, is created in the image of God, and walks in righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24). However we need to renew our mind (Ephesians 4:23) and crucify the flesh (Romans 12:1-3).

So in Ephesians 5:1-2, Paul sets the standard at which this new life in Christ has to be lived - we are to be imitators of God. We are to walk in live as Christ also loved us.

5:1 [Amplified Bible]

"Therefore become imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father]; "

God would never require us to do what we are not capable of doing with His empowering. So yes, indeed, because of the new man we are on the inside, we can be imitators of God and love as Christ also loved.

[can share some practical scenarios here]

Saints Don't Play With Sin

Ephesians 5:3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

Ephesians 5:4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Ephesians 5:5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Ephesians 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.

5:3-4 We are saints (Ephesians 1:1). Paul then lists things that are not appropriate for saints and should not even be mentioned among us:



Fornication and all uncleanness - all forms of sexual sin, immoral, indecent, or offensive behavior.

Covetousness - greediness, lust, uncontrolled desire for more, self-indulgence.

Filthiness - anything that is filth, sinful

Foolish talking and coarse jesting - silly talk, obscene, vulgar. Avoid this kind of talking and instead we should engage in giving thanks to God.

[can share some practical scenarios here]

5:5 Paul warns us - even us who are saints - that involving in sexual immorality and covetousness (which is the same as idolatry) will keep us from entering into the Kingdom.

5:6 Paul warns us not to get deceived by those who make words, promises or arguments that seem to say that it is ok to do the things he has just mentioned. He clearly tells us that God's anger is on those who indulge in these kinds of things.

Saints Don't Participate in Sin

Ephesians 5:7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Ephesians 5:9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

Ephesians 5:10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

5:7-9 As saints we do not become partners with the unsaved in doing what they do. We were once darkness, but now we are light. Who we are is different. We must walk according to the new man.

The outcome of the transformation is demonstrated in us expressing goodness, righteousness and truth.

[can share some practical scenarios here]

5:10 instead of participating with others in sin, we do our best to find out and learn what is pleasing to the Lord and do those things.

Saints Expose Sin

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

Ephesians 5:12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

Ephesians 5:13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Ephesians 5:14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

5:11-13 By us being who we are - light - by walking as light - in goodness, righteousness, truth - by us finding out what is pleasing to the Lord and doing that - we "expose" the "unfruitful works" of darkness. We expose their unproductiveness, their deceitfulness, their worthlessness and their wastefulness.



5:14 As we live this way, walking as light **God is speaking through us to people** who are dead, sleeping in darkness, declaring to them that Christ will give them light.

[can share some practical scenarios here]

Walk Circumspectly, Redeem Your Time, Understand His Will

Ephesians 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

Ephesians 5:16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

5:15 Having understood these things, "walk circumspectly"

To be circumspect means to be watchful, careful, making diligent inquiry into things, doing "due diligence" in all matters.

Be wise - very similar to what the Lord taught us to be wise as serpents, harmless as doves as we go out as sheep among wolves (Matthew 10:16).

5:16 Make the most of your time. Use every moment. Seize every opportunity. Because days are filled with evil - there is so much that is destructive, wasteful, unproductive, evil going on, that if you are not careful, your time can get consumed by such things. So guard your time and consciously ensure that every moment is "redeemed" and put to good use.

[can share some practical scenarios here on how people can guard their time and use it well]

5:17 We must make every effort to understand God's will and do it. Very similar to what he already told us in **5:10** that we need to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

It is the believer's responsibility to determine, find out, learn and understand what the will of the Lord is.

In **Romans 12:1-2** Paul teaches us that **as we renew our mind** we will be able to prove what is good, and pleasing and perfect in God's eyes. He uses the same word "prove" (to test, to examine) in Romans 12:2 and Ephesians 5:10. In Ephesians 5:17 he tells us to "understand" what God's will is. **Colossians 1:9** teaches us that it **takes spiritual wisdom and understanding** to know His will. Hence as believers it is our responsibility to renew our mind to God's Word, and grow in spiritual wisdom and understanding that comes from His Word and His Holy Spirit. This will help us know God's will.

Be filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Ephesians 5:20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.



Having challenged us to walk as children of the light, Paul shows us how we can live this light-life. Getting drunk with wine only bring ruin and wastefulness. Instead he says we must be "filled" with the Spirit. To be filled with the Spirit means I live under the influence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit now influencing, guiding and moving my thoughts, actions, words, and reactions.

To be "under the influence" of the Spirit I must learn (A) to be sensitive to Him and (B) to respond and cooperate with Him.

The Holy Spirit is not someone who normally pushes His way and comes on in an overpowering manner (although there may be special occasions when He would do that). He normally alights gently like a dove.

*To the extent I **welcome** Him, to the extent I **desire** Him, to the extent I **yield** to Him, to the extent I am **sensitive** to Him, to the extent I **respond** and **cooperate** with Him - to that extent He influences me, and I am filled with Him. I must learn to be still. I must learn to listen to Him.*

be filled = Greek 'pleroo' = complete, to be full of

We do this by simply praying and asking the Holy Spirit to fill us and expressing our desire to be yielded to Him.

We are to be continually filled with the Spirit - all the time.

5:19-21 give us the "characteristics" or "identifying marks" of person who is walking filled with the Spirit: SPEAKING, SINGING, MAKING MELODY, GIVING THANKS, SUBMITTING.

A person who is living a Spirit-filled life is always in praise, worship and gratitude toward the Lord and walking in humility and submission.

Paul explains very clearly in **Galatians 5:16,24** that when we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

Walking in the Spirit then is what enables us to walk according to the new man, to be imitators of God, to walk as light, to live a life of victory over sin.

Minister as the Spirit leads + Salvation Call