

# Ephesians 5

SRGH Bimonthly Bible Reading, November 16, 2019

## **I. The Believer's Position in Christ / The Unity of the Assembly Positionally [1:1–3:21]**

## **II. The Believer's Practice in the Lord / The Unity of the Assembly Practically [4:1–6:20]**

**Chapters 4-6: Duty to Achieve God's Purpose: Walking toward Unity and Maturity (4:1-6:20).**

- Paul uses two words—"therefore" [οὖν] and "walk" [περιπατέω]—to structure 4:1-6:9:
  1. **Walk worthily [4:1]** "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."
  2. **Do not be walking as the Gentiles walk [4:17]** Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.
  3. **Be walking in love [5:1-2]** 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.
  4. **Be walking as children of light [5:7-8]** "Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."
  5. **Be watching how accurately you are walking [5:15]** "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise." (Compare: "Stand therefore" [6:14].)

## **I. Appeal to Maintain Unity through Diversity in the Assembly [4:1-16].**

## **II. Appeal for a New Morality among Members: A New Walk in Unity, Love, Purity, Light, and Wisdom [4:17-6:9].**

**A. A New Morality and Our Former Lifestyle: A New Mind [4:17-24].**

**B. A New Morality and Our Present Life in Christ: Members of Each Other [4:25-32].**

**C. A New Morality and Our Relation to Unbelievers: Imitating God [5:1-14].**

1. **WALK IN LOVE.** Imitators of God walk in sacrificial love—not selfish lust [5:1-7].
  - i. **Imitate God the Father:** *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children [5:1].*
  - ii. **Imitate God the Son:** *And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God [5:2].*
  - iii. **Don't conform to society by confusing love with lust**—sexual sins are cheap, corrupt caricatures of true love [5:3-7].
    - a. **First: sinful thought and speech—language is for praise, not perversion:** *But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving [5:3-4].*
    - b. **Second: resultant sinful practice incompatible with conversion:** *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. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them [5:5-7].*
2. **WALK IN LIGHT.** Imitators of God walk as children of light and so confront the darkness [5:8-14].
  - i. **Light brings life:** *For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light [5:8].*
  - ii. **Light produces fruit:** *For the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true [5:9].*
  - iii. **Light clarifies what is right:** *And try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord [5:10].*
  - iv. **Light exposes what is wrong:** *Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret [5:11-12].*

- v. **Light confronts darkness:** *But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" [5:13-14].*
- D. A New Morality and Our Relation to the Holy Spirit: "Be Being Filled" [5:15-6:9].**
1. **WALK ACCURATELY IN WISDOM:** *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise [5:15].*
    - i. **Pay whatever it costs to devote time to the Lord** (moral equivalent of keeping the Sabbath holy): *Making the best use of the time, because the days are evil [5:16].*
    - ii. **Give up your ideas and pursue His will:** *Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is [5:17].*
    - iii. **Make sure that nothing controls you but His Spirit:** *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit [5:18].* Points of contrast with alcohol: 1) walking (staggering v. straight); 2) speaking (slurred v. gracious); 3) singing (lewd v. reverent); 4) acting (aggressive v. submissive).
      - a) **Singing to each other (codifies, edifies, unifies):** *Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs [5:19a].*
      - b) **Singing to the Lord (glorifies):** *Singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart [5:19b].*
      - c) **Speaking to God the Father:** *Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ [5:20].*
      - d) **Submitting to each other:** *Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ [5:21].*
  2. **The Accurate, Wise, Spirit-Filled Walk Means Submission in the Extended Family:** Wives and Husbands [5:22-33]; Children and Parents [6:1-4]; Slaves and Masters [6:5-9].
    - i. **Duty of Wives:** *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord ... wives should submit in everything to their husbands ... let the wife see that she respects her husband [5:22, 24, 33].*
      - a) **Rationale:** A<sup>1</sup> *The husband is the head of the wife. B<sup>1</sup> Christ is head of the Church and Savior of the body. B<sup>2</sup> The church submits to Christ. A<sup>2</sup> Wives should submit in everything to their husbands.*
    - ii. **Duty of Husbands:** *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church ... In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies ... let each one of you love his wife as himself [5:25a, 28, 33].*
      - a) **Rationale 1: Christ Loves the Assembly as His Bride.**
        - 1) **He sacrifices for her:** *Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her [5:25; cf. 5:2].*
        - 2) **He is faithful to her:** *That he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word [5:26].*
        - 3) **He has hopes for her:** *So that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish [5:27].*
      - b) **Rationale 2: Christ Nourishes and Cherishes Loves the Assembly as His Body:** *In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself, for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body [5:28-30].*
      - c) **The Profound Mystery:** *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church [5:31-32].*
- E. A New Morality and Our Relation to Satan: Spiritual Warfare [6:10-20].**