

Grace Bible Church
Adult Elective Winter 2017
Topic: Ephesians
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Textbook Utilized: Living Insights - Ephesians by Chuck Swindoll

Ephesians Chapter 5

- Intro To Chapter 5
 - We are to follow Christ in submission as disciples of His.
 - It is only through changed lives (via the Holy Spirit) that we are able to truly follow Christ and submit to Him. (see Romans 8:29)
 - We live Christ-like lives in all aspects of our lives.
 - Worship
 - Humility
 - Submission
 - Work place integrity
 - Etc.
- 5:1-2
 - Paul's walking theme calls upon the beginning of Chapter 4. Here, the believer is to walk in love.
 - Believers are also taught to be imitators of God (Gk: *mimetes*).
 - We do this by looking to Christ.
 - Love (Gk: *agape*) – unconditional
 - See John 15:13
 - Put others above ourselves
 - Holy
 - Good
 - Kind
 - Just
 - Gracious
 - Merciful
 - Etc.
- 5:3-6
 - Believers are to be “light” (see Philippians 2:15)
 - The contrast is that which is darkness. We were darkness. Note that we didn't just follow in darkness. We were darkness.
 - Immorality (Gk: *porneia*) – sexual sin outside of marriage
 - Impurity (Gk: *akatharsia*) – that which pollutes us and our minds (opposite a cathartic....)
 - Greed (Gk: *pleonesia*) – covetousness both sexually and materially
 - We worship that which we seek. It becomes our focus.
 - Filthiness – shameful, disgraceful, lewd speech

- Silly Talk (Gk: *morologia*) – speaking like a fool with empty speech contrary to God and His character
 - Coarse Jestings (Gk: *eutrapelia*) – humor intended to twist, make double entendres, suggestive, immoral, etc.
 - Instead, our tongues should be used to edify and build up the body while glorifying God.
 - If our lives are typified by the above darkness, it is likely true that we are not believers.
- 5:7-10
 - Believers can be caught up in sin, and Paul warns us of this.
 - We were darkness before we came to Christ.
 - Light looks like goodness, righteousness, and truth!
- 5:11-14
 - Living in darkness hurts the believer himself/herself, it hurts the church, but it also hurts unbelievers because it turns them away from Christ.
 - By living in the light we show the world the contrast between darkness and light. (see Matthew 5:16)
- 5:15
 - Walk rightly! In other words, have good conduct (all the time) in your daily walk with Christ. Cf. Prov. 3:6 – acknowledge the Lord in all your ways.
- 5:16
 - Use time wisely! Gk. *kairos* (“time” in English) refers to opportunities.
 - Cf. 1 Corinthians 10:31
 - In everything, we should be focusing on the Lord and giving Him all honor and glory.
 - Work extremes:
 - Slothfulness
 - Overwork
 - KEY: Balance with priorities set based upon Christ/service.
- 5:17
 - Make decisions wisely!
 - We do not want to live foolishly (as if there is no God or as if His will does not matter in our lives). Instead, we want to live with an understanding of God’s will for our lives.
 - Pray.
 - Study God’s Word (and use it as the “canon” or measuring stick by which all decisions [etc.] are measured).
 - Seek wise counsel.
- 5:18-20
 - Be controlled!
 - Allow the Holy Spirit to guide us and lead us as we submit to Him.
- 5:21
 - Subject yourself to other believers (bear burdens and encourage others looking out for their best interests: Gal. 6:2, Phil. 2:3-4, Heb. 10:24-25)

Marriage and Other Relationships

- Recall that this section finds itself within Paul’s “practical Christian living” section of Ephesians (chapters 4-6).
 - Walk worthy with humility, gentleness, patience and tolerance (all in love). Eph. 4:1-2
 - Imitate God and walk in love (following the example of Christ – cf. Matthew 20:28). Eph. 5:1-2
 - Be subject to one another in Christ. Eph. 5:21.
- Submission is not unilateral. It is mutual and requires both individuals to seek the best for the other as they honor Christ.
- 5:22-24
 - KEY: Paul is teaching in the context of **mutual submission** outlined in v. 21.
 - KEY: Paul is teaching in the context of **equal dignity/value**. Cf. Galatians 3:28
 - Paul is specifically teaching only of the marriage relationship (not general relationships between men and women – see Gk. *idios* which means “your own”).
 - Husbands have been designed for leadership in the home and wives have been designed to support their husbands.
 - Swindoll writes: “Understood in its whole Biblical context, Christian marriage is meant to be a partnership, an intimate relationship, and a deep, mutually gratifying friendship- not a dictatorship! By appealing to the relationship between Christ and the church as model for marriage (5:23-24), Paul taps into the beautiful picture of the intimate, personal, and loving relationship between the Savior and His people.” p. 284, Living Insights – Ephesians
 - Piper writes: “I love the Scriptures. I’m a complementarian. I believe that men are called to a unique kind of leadership in marriage. I believe that women are called to a unique kind of submission in marriage. And I think it’s a beautiful thing — the way those two roles complement and serve one another. If we probe the depths and keep digging into the Scriptures, even though they’re written in another time, they will shape a marriage today into a beautiful thing. I would define submission in marriage like this: *Submission is the defined calling of a wife to honor and affirm her husband’s leadership, and so help to carry it through according to her gifts.*” <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/six-things-submission-is-not>
- 5:25-27
 - Wives support and honor husbands through respect.
 - Husbands cherish and honor wives through agape love.
 - Gk. *Agape* love: seeks the well-being of the other at the price of one’s own needs, wishes, comfort, etc.

- Gk. *Eros* love: passionate love (possibly self-seeking).
 - Gk. *Philia* love: affection and closeness in two-way love (friendship, partnership, etc.).
 - What does Christ-like agape love look like?
 - Surrender to meet needs.
 - Sanctify to encourage growth.
 - Forgiveness in extending grace and mercy.
 - Honor in considering others precious and valuable.
- 5:28-33
 - Husbands are to love their wives as they love their own body. He gives her the utmost care and attention.
 - The marriage relationship is an important way in which the world sees Christ!
 - Similar to how a husband and wife have an intimate physical and emotional union, the church (the believers!) has a unity with Christ, too. Cf. Genesis 2:24 – UNITY!
 - Love and respect are key!

Excursus: Piper on what submission is not-

1. Submission is not agreeing on everything.
2. Submission does not mean leaving your brain at the altar.
3. Submission does not mean you do not try to influence your husband.
4. Submission is not putting the will of the husband before the will of Christ.
5. Submission does not mean getting all of her spiritual strength through her husband.
6. Submission does not mean living or acting in fear.