Living Different in a Dark World

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Ephesians 5:1-33 Review

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

As God empowers us, we **walk in love, in light, and wisely** in a world that follows a much different path.

Our walk is to be ***worthy of His calling***—so it has to include humility; patience; forgiveness and kindness as we interact with family and friends.

God's grace gives the promise of eternal life and Jesus brings us into His family through His sacrifice at Calvary.

He *calls* us to ***Live Different in a Dark World*** so we can ***act different*** toward people and be a godly influence on them. Being a member of *God's family* inspires us to reflect *His character*.

Believers *imitate God* as children *imitate parents*. ***Now We are Light***—so we ***walk*** different; ***think*** different, and ***live*** different—***Off with the Old; On with the*** **New**—a new ***attitude*** that is ***visible*** and a new ***speech*** that is ***audible***.

Walking away from angry words, crude jokes, or critical conversations is our witness for Jesus.

Our new way extends grace, is *polite*, *courteous*, and *respectful*. Our life reflects God's love, mercy, and forgiveness. He accepts *us into His family*, so can we accept the *books, magazines,* and *music* we bring into our home?

We are careful not to discuss around the dinner table disturbing things that happened at work or heard in the news—and if we do, it is only to say how Satan controls most people in the world.

Walking in love is because *Jesus loved* us and *gave* Himself *for* us as a sacrifice to God. His sacrificial death reveals the *height, depth, length, and width* of God's love for His creation. Christian love involves *sacrifice*, *service*, and *concern* for others.

Rejecting any thoughts of immorality; impurity; or covetousness and greedy desires is pleasing to God because those things are opposite to *walking worthy of His calling*. Our conduct should be a reflection of God's character.

Ephesians 5:4 NIV "Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

To continue with immoral ways, impure thoughts, and idolatrous desires for more and more—gives no assurance of Eternal Life.

Dealing seriously with serious sins, through our repentance and prayer to God, is vitally important. Our ***choices*** always have ***consequences***.

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***. **7** *Therefore do* ***not*** *be partakers with them*."

Being misled by empty arguments that *excuses disobedience*—brings God's judgment. Popular opinions must be measured by the infallible Word of God.

Believers are not to take part in the sins of others. We can ***love*** people without being part of their unscriptural behavior.

Ephesians 5:8 *"For you were* ***once*** *darkness, but* ***now*** *you are light in the Lord. Walk as* ***children of light:*** **9** *(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth) only what is good and right and true* NLT, **10** *finding out what is acceptable to the Lord."*

We must be on-guard guard against Satan's attempts to get us back to *dark ways* of the *past days*. We walk *in the light of the Lord* and *as children of the light would be inspired to do.* God's grace changed our *identity* and our *family.*

A life controlled by the Holy Spirit from God produces spiritual fruit of God. The evidence is: we no longer want to take part in what the world desires to do—pertaining to entertainment, music, reading material, and videos. **2 Corinthians 6:17** *"Come out from among them And be separate."*

We are often around unbelievers at work, but we do not take part in worldly discussions or immoral jokes. Walking away is always the right way!

By leaving the ***conversation, we send the message that we are not*** interested in what they are discussing. We stand for what is right and do not compromise our convictions.

Ephesians 5:11 "*Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works [deeds* NIV*] of darkness, but rather expose them.* **12** *For it is shameful even to* ***speak of those things*** *which are done by them in secret*.

Instead of *accepting* worldly ways, we *reject* them and explain why we do to young ones—advising them *strongly* not to be involved with such talk.

We need to be alert and careful not to discuss or in any way condone shameful things of the world around the dinner table.

WEY **Ephesians 5:13** "*Everything can be tested by the* ***light*** *and thus be shown in its true colors; for whatever* ***shines*** *of itself is light*.

14 *Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light*. **15** *So be careful how you live, not as fools but as wise*, **16** *redeeming the time, because the days are evil*."

Never be careless or indifferent to God's Truth—staying alert and on guard is more needed today than ever before.

17 *Therefore do not be unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is."*

Jesus could return at *any time*—so we cannot *waste time* on frivolous things of no spiritual value. Time spent today cannot be recovered—so be vigilant ***now*** and not regret it ***later***. "*Teach us to number our days"* **Psalm 90:12.**

Ephesians 5:18 It is very *unwise* to consume alcohol—avoid it entirely; ***Be filled*** *with the Spirit*" who inspires us to speak **Ephesians 5:19** "*to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*, **20** *giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*."

A Spirit-filled life affects our *relationships*, our *hearts*, and our *attitudes.*

The principles of trust on God and faith in Christ reaches beyond marriage to our relationships with *all people.* Giving others preference is **21** "*Submitting to one another in the fear of God."*

22 *Wives submit to husbands;* **23** *the husband is head of the wife, as Christ is head of the church."* A right relationship between husband and wife results in a right relationship with everyone else.

Ephesians 5:24 *Therefore, just as the church is* ***subject*** *to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything*.

25 *Husbands,* ***love*** *your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and* ***gave Himself*** *for her,* **26** *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word."*

Christ loved the church supremely and sacrificed Himself for it. **Ephesians 5:27** *"That He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."*

And Christ *loves* us so He keeps working *with* us to perfect our faith in Him—changing our ways, words, and attitudes to imitate His ways, words, and attitudes.

Wanting to imitate God by submitting to His authority conforms us to His image. **Matthew 5:48** "*You shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect*.**"**

Ephesians 5:28 *"Husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself."*

A man is to **Genesis 2:24**—***leave*** *and* ***cleave*** *unto his wife: and they shall be* ***one*** *flesh*" **Ephesians 5:31** and **32** *This is a great* ***mystery.***

We are *one* ***with*** *Christ* by our faith ***in*** Him; by our love ***of*** Him; by our trust ***on*** Him; and by our obedience ***to*** the infallible Word of God.

Ephesians 5:33 "*Let each one of you so* ***love*** *his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she* ***respects*** *her husband.*"

Husbands ***love***—Wives ***respect***—and this love between two in a marriage mirrors the much greater love between Christ and His church.

We are ***called*** to *love;* to *forgive*; to *serve* with humility; to *encourage;* and to always put the needs of others *ahead* of our own.

Jesus showed all the above by His example—and our following Him changes our *heart*; our *home*; our *life;* and ***our destiny!***

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