

We previously examined the unbeliever's life and focused on how the children of God should explicitly put aside deceitfulness and personal animosities, replacing them with truth and love in word, thought and action. Those that have been taught Christ will visibly and spiritually be transformed by the truth; they will put off the old and put on the new. We concluded last study with a call to be imitators of God, contemplating the sacrificial love demonstrated by Christ.

**Read Ephesians 5:3-21**

*Eph 5:1-6 - 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. [3] 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. 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.*

1. How are the saints to conduct themselves? Why is it crucial that they are not misled and act in line with their calling?
  - a. Previously, we examined sexual immorality and impurity (cf. Rom 1) understanding it as dishonorable acts before God. These passions are contrary to nature, going against God's design of sexuality within marriage; between one man and one woman (cf. Gen 1-2). The acts are perversions of creation, exemplified in adultery, homosexuality, and fornication.
  - b. What is covetousness or idolatry (cf. Ex 20:17; Col 3:5)? Why is the filthiness, foolish talk and crude joking out of place (cf. Col 3:8-9; Eph 5:19-20)? Reflect on your thought and social life, do you need to repent?

*Eph 5:7-14 - 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 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 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. 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."*

2. Therefore, being aware of the impending wrath, we are called to be the light and walk in it, discerning what is pleasing to the Lord. Should we then avoid all contact with nonbelievers (cf. 1 John 1:5-7; Gal 5:22-24; Eph 5:14 [Isa 60:1])?
  - a. What does it mean to expose the unfruitful works of darkness (cf. 1 Cor 14:24-25; 1 Cor 5:9-13)?

*Eph 5:7-14 - 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 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 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. 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."*

b. How are we to discern what is pleasing to the Lord(cf. Col 1:9-10; Rom 12:1-2)? What does this look practically look like?

*Eph 5:15-21 - Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

<p>3.How do the unwise or foolish walk? Also consider Prov 1:7, 22, 1 Cor 2:14.</p>	<p>In contrast, how do the wise walk?Also consider Col 3:16-17, Gal 5:16-23</p>
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4.What does it mean to make the best use of the time because the days are evil (cf. 1 Cor 7:29-31,Psalm 90:12)? How do we submit to one another out of reverence for Christ and what is our attitude in doing so (cf. Eph 4:1-3)?

Understand that time is \_\_\_\_\_ ( r s i u p e c o ).How can you \_\_\_\_\_ (m e d e r e) it?

5.Ben mentions that you are constantly distracted by social media to the point where he/she has noticed you on your phone during sermons and fellowship! Ben states that you need to examine yourself and stop being unwise. Instead of filling yourself up with what the world offers in [profane] entertainment, he/she calls you to return to true Christian obedience and fellowship. How does the passage today inform your thoughts and response? Do you agree/disagree?

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is living in the conscious presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, letting his mind, through the word, dominate everything that is thought and done. Moving forward in our studies, we will see how the Spirit leads us in all wisdom to understand that submission to others is done in accordance to the authority and order established by God. We will consider practical examples of submission to one another that are done out of reverence for Christ.