

**Bible Study Packet
Week 9**



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Ephesians 5:1-20

Imitating God

Having said in chapters 1-3 that salvation and reconciliation with God is God's unearned gift, Paul went on to give his audience reasons to live ethically and a description of what ethical life is. Read 5:1-20 several times.

1.a. What do you think is the major reason for ethical living that Paul gave in chapters 1 through 4?

b. For some specific aspects of this reason, consult the following passages from Ephesians:2:4-5

Ephesians 2:10

Ephesians 2:19

Ephesians 4:1

Ephesians 4:30

2. Now, what reasons does Ephesians 5:1-20 add?

Ephesians 5:2

Ephesians 5:5-6

Ephesians 5:8

Ephesians 5:11

Ephesians 5:15-16

3.a. Look carefully at 5:1-2. What does Paul tell the Ephesians to do?

b. What does the context (see verses 1-2) of Paul's command suggest to you about what following this instruction means?

4.a. What kind of purposes and goals in life do you think would be necessary to obey Paul's command to "live a life of love" (verse 2)?

b. Can you think of some examples of practical acts of love toward those outside your family? What might they be?

5. Read the kinds of behavior that Paul denounces in verses 3-4. Is there anything here that sounds like a warning to you? What kinds of thoughts or actions should you be on your guard against?

Immortality (verse 3). The Greek word *porneia* (from which we get *pornography*), which means illicit sexual relations.

6. Why do you think Paul called an immoral, impure, or greedy person an idolater (see verse 5)? How are these sins idolatrous?

7. What do you think Paul means in Ephesians 5:7 by warning us not to "participate in these things"?

8. How would you explain what it means to "live as people of light" (verse 8)?

9. To Christians struggling with unholy habits, what counsel did Paul give? verses 10, 17:

verse 11:

10. a. Read 5:15-17. Why do you think Paul inserted this advice?

b. List every practical implication you can think of that this instruction suggests for setting personal direction in life.

11. Why do you think Paul commanded his readers to "be filled with the Spirit" (verse 18)?

12. What does 5:19-20 teach about:
Our relationship with God?

Our relationship with others?

Our response to circumstance?

13. Is there anything you think God is leading you to concentrate on that came up in your study of 5:1-20? How could you go about finding out what pleases the Lord in this area?

14. Summarize what seems to be the central teaching of 5:1-20.

15. List any questions you have about this passage.