Walking in Light

Lesson #7 Ephesians 5:1-20

**Vs. 1: Follow God’s Example (Be imitators of God)**

Imitator: someone who mimics God, a follower who uses the Lord as a model (WWJD)

I Cor. 11:1 Paul urges them to follow his example as he follows the example of Christ

Heb. 6:12 We are told to imitate those who show faith and patience

**Vs. 2: “Walk in the way of love” implies:**

#1 “Not even a hint of:” Don’t let these things even be named among you (vs. 3)

1. Sexual immorality

“Porneia”-This is an inclusive term that covers fornication (sex between two parties who are not married), adultery (a married person having sex with someone other than their spouse), homosexuality, sexual perversion and so on.

Consider I Cor. 6:18 “Flee” is a present imperative (command): Flee and keep on fleeing until the danger is past.

1. Any kind of impurity- the lustful, rich, wasteful living or uncleanness…every kind of it
2. Greed- a desire to have more than one’s due

Those who do these things are idolaters and have no inheritance in heaven (vs. 5) See I Cor. 6:9-11.

#2 Three forms of speech to avoid (vs. 4)

1. Obscenity: Filthiness, disgraceful and ugly talk
2. Foolish Talk: Jesting, polished, witty speech used as an instrument of sin
3. Coarse Joking: Foul language, a kind of abuse or denigration

\*\*Instead give thanks/be a grateful people

Those who participate and speak “empty words” will feel the wrath of God (vs. 6-7)

**VS. 8-14: Live as Children of Light**

#1 The contrast: “once darkness/now light” (vs. 8)

Light helps us discriminate what is pleasing to God and what is not

Light exposes evil-see John 3:19

Light can also be an agent of healing

#2 The result: “fruit of the light” (vs. 9)

1. Goodness: benevolence, a generosity of spirit
2. Righteousness: giving to God and man what is their due
3. Truth: Not just intellectual truth, but moral truth as well. Being strong enough to do what is right.

#3 The goal: “find out what pleases the Lord” (vs. 10)

“have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness” (vs. 11)

Contrasted with “fruit of the light”

“Expose them” (light illuminates evil) (vs. 12-13)

Don’t even mention what they do

#4 The application: “wake up”

This likely lyrics out of a well-known Christian hymn of the day.

See also Isa. 26:19, 51:17,52:1, 60:1 and Mal. 4:2

**Vs. 15-20 Be careful how you live (as wise)**

#1. Make the most of every opportunity (vs. 16)

“The word rendered here as "redeeming," means "to purchase; to buy up" from the possession or power of anyone; and then to redeem, to set free - as from service or bondage. Here it means, to rescue or recover our time from waste; to improve it for great and important purposes.” (Barnes Commentary)

Chronos: is a stream of time (often translated seasons)

Kairos: are individual moments. Paul is instructing us to make the most of every “teachable moment.”

The Message renders this verse: “So, watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times.”

#2. Do not be foolish (vs. 17)

See Proverbs 10:1; 14:17; 15:20; 17:25; 19:13; 21:20; 30:32

#3. Do not get drunk (vs. 18)

It leads to “debauchery” (an abandoned man/ moral abandonment

It prevents self-control (Fruit of the Spirit-Gal. 5:22)

#4 Do be filled with the Spirit (vs. 18)

Present tense, command: “go on being filled”

#5 Do speak/sing to each other (vs. 19)

1. Psalms
2. Hymns (I Cor. 14:16) Apparently each believer brought a hymn to share when the body gathered
3. Songs from the Spirit: (I Cor. 14:15) These were the spontaneous songs

All three forms of music were meant to have an effect on each believer and as a means of expressing worship to God.

#6 Always give thanks (vs. 20)

See Phil. 4:6

**So What?**

Ask yourself some questions:

1. Am I imitating God? Am I living a life that looks like the one Jesus lived?
2. Do I participate in behaviors or speech that are improper for God’s people?
3. Does my life have the “fruit of light?”
4. Am I making the most of every opportunity God has given me?
5. Do I let the Spirit fill me every day?

Let’s make some personal commitments to align our lives with the verses in Eph. 5.

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