

# Ephesians

## Lesson 7 Ephesians 5:1-20

### Leader Guide

Leader Guide Bible Studies  
Leaderguidebiblestudies.com  
David R. Steele

This lesson is a free download from Leader Guide Bible Studies and is not for resale.  
Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV®  
Copyright © 1973 1978 1984 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™  
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

## Lesson 7

### Ephesians 5

### Living as Imitators of God

Be very careful, then, how you live —not as unwise but as wise. *Ephesians 5:15*

#### Prayers

#### Read Ephesians 5:1-20

Eph 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children

Eph 5:2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Eph 5:3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

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

Eph 5:5 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.

Eph 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

Eph 5:7 Therefore do not be partners with them.

Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

Eph 5:9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)

Eph 5:10 and find out what pleases the Lord.

Eph 5:11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

Eph 5:12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

Eph 5:13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,

Eph 5:14 for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Eph 5:15 Be very careful, then, how you live —not as unwise but as wise,

Eph 5:16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Eph 5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Eph 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Eph 5:19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,

Eph 5:20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Discuss

1. What is our motivation for living a life of love, an imitator of God?
2. In chapter 4, Paul contrasts behaviors characterizing life in Christ with old behaviors that need to be put off. In chapter 5, Paul says something with grave consequences; there are serious sins that can exclude a person from the kingdom of God. These sins can be forgiven with repentance

and faith in Christ, but they can't be practiced by anyone who claims they are in the body of Christ. Paul tells the Corinthian church the same thing (1 Corinthians 5:11, 2 Corinthians 12:21). What sins does Paul specifically name that are so grievous to God?

<sup>1Co 5:11</sup> But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. <sup>12</sup> What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? <sup>13</sup> God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

<sup>2Co 12:21</sup> I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.

<sup>Eph 5:5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partners with them.

3. How have Christians in American society compromised their standards of sexual morality?

4. Paul reminds the Ephesians in verses 5:8-18 they were called from the darkness of sin into the light of a new life in Christ, filled by his Spirit. Light and darkness are common themes in scripture. What was Jesus teaching his followers about their faith in his light parables?

a. Summarize Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:14-16

<sup>Mt 5:14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

<sup>Mt 5:15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

<sup>Mt 5:16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

b. Summarize Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:22-24

<sup>Mt 6:22</sup> "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.

<sup>Mt 6:23</sup> But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

<sup>Mt 6:24</sup> "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

5. Given Jesus' teaching, what did Paul likely mean in verses 11-14: "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."
  
6. Throughout chapter 5, Paul gives instructions about living as children of God. In verse 17, Paul says something extraordinary; we should understand the Lord's will. Just imagine what it means to have insight into the incomprehensible mind of God. Review Ephesians 5:8-17, and discuss the Lord's will for our life.

<sup>Eph 5:8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>Eph 5:15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live —not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

- a. <sup>Col 1:9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

<sup>Jas 1:5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

- b. <sup>1Th 4:3</sup> It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable

<sup>1Pe 1:15</sup> But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

- c. <sup>Mt 22:37</sup> Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

<sup>Mt 7:12</sup> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

- d. <sup>Phil 2:9</sup> Therefore God exalted him [Christ Jesus] to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on

earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- e. <sup>Eph 1:3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.  
<sup>Eph 1:4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.  
<sup>Eph 1:7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

### **Closing**

Lord God, we pray for the wisdom to understand your will for our lives. You have taught us that You have a plan for each of us. Your hand guides our steps and provides us with all we need. Forgive our sins and guide us to desire holy lives. We pray that we do the good works you have prepared for us and pray that we are eager to praise our Lord Jesus and your goodness.