

The Way

Fruit of the Church: Ephesians

Lesson 38: Believers Should Live According to the New Position God Has Given Them in Christ (Part 2)

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Scripture

Ephesians 4:17-32

Review (Where We've Been)

For the last couple weeks, we've been discussing the change that takes place when we are in Christ.

Ephesians 1-3 shows us the basis upon which this behavior change takes place.

Without this basis, living out our faith is empty moralism – trying to earn God's favor through good works.

We are saved FOR good works, not BY good works.

“One's calling and conduct should be in balance.” – Bible Knowledge Com.

BIG Idea

Last week we learned that Christians should be *putting off* the works of the old self in favor of *putting on* the works of the new self.

Ephesians 4:20 (ESV) ...to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires...24 ...and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Today, Paul will dig a little deeper into putting on the new self by writing about how we can be imitators of God.

Ephesians 5:1 (ESV) Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

“Believers are to imitate God's holiness in all of their conduct. They are to be like Him, not as slaves trying to earn a wage but as children.”- ESV Study Bible

As children imitate their parents, children of God the Father should imitate Him.

Information (What You Need to Know)

If you've been changed by God, the way you walk in daily life should change.

Paul Mentions Four Ways We Should Walk...

▪ **Walk in Love**

Ephesians 5:2 (ESV) And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

“During Old Testament times, Israelites offered animal sacrifices to God. Although those sacrifices pleased God, they never fully satisfied His righteous demands. But when Jesus came, He offered Himself as a fully satisfying sacrifice to God for us. The offering of His life was like a fragrant odor to God. This means that God the Father was completely pleased with the Jesus when He willingly gave Himself in love to the Father as a sacrifice for us.” – Firm Foundations

Walk in love in these areas...

✓ **Sexual purity** (thoughts, actions, and speech)

Ephesians 5:3 (ESV) But **sexual immorality** and **all impurity** or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. **4** Let there be **no filthiness** nor foolish talk nor **crude joking**, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. **5** 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.

✓ **Contentment** (with what you have)

Ephesians 5:3 (ESV) But sexual immorality and all impurity or **covetousness** must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. **5** For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is...**covetous** (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

✓ **Proper speech**

Ephesians 5:4 (ESV) Let there be no filthiness nor **foolish talk** nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

▪ **Walk in Light**

✓ **No assurance** for those who continue in darkness (that is, unrepentant sin)

Ephesians 5:6 (ESV) 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 become partners with them; **8** for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light...

*Believers can commit these sins but won't **continue** without repentance. There's a difference between celebrating and struggling through sin.*

- ✓ Discern what pleases the Lord (through Scripture and the Holy Spirit)
Ephesians 5:10 (ESV) ...and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.
- ✓ Darkness is meant to be exposed, not embraced
Ephesians 5:11 (ESV) Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. **12** For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.
 - Believers are not to have fellowship with the works of darkness
 - Believers are not supposed to speak of the evil works of darkness

▪ **Walk in Wisdom**

Ephesians 5:15 (ESV) Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

- ✓ Walk carefully, not foolishly
- ✓ Make the best use of your time (focus on what matters)
- ✓ Aspire to understand God's will for your life

▪ **Walk (be filled with) in the Spirit**

Ephesians 5:18 (ESV) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20** giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21** submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

In the same way alcohol controls a drunk, we are to be controlled by the Spirit of God. This is a willing choice on our part to allow Him to have control over every part of our life

When we are controlled by the Spirit of God, three things will take place...

- ✓ Public and private singing to the Lord (5:19)
- ✓ Thankfulness in all things (5:20)
- ✓ Humbly submitting to others (5:21) – *we'll develop this next week*

Application (What You Need to Do)

Romans 6:12 (NLT) Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. **13** Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.