

# "Walking in Light" Ephesians 5:1-10

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## **Ephesians 5:1-10:**

*"1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor. 3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them. 8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."*  
(Eph 5:1-10)

The last chapter closed with the exhortation for us to forgive one another. It is the unforgiving spirit that is the source of so many evils that afflict the body of Christ. We harden our hearts toward one another and a party spirit develops and hardness and bitterness come, all rooted in our hurt feelings and ill-will toward each other. It is these "roots of bitterness" that defile the body of Christ, according to Hebrews, and we are to watch for them. They come when a person comes short, or fails, of the grace of God, not manifesting the grace of God in his heart and life, and it is a great temptation to every saint.

In this forgiveness, we are called to be followers of God, as dear children. If we follow God we walk in love and forgiveness, and not in bitterness, malice, and strife.

**Vs. 1,2. "1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in**

**love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor.”**

We are to walk in love, being followers of God and Christ. God gave His only begotten Son for us and the Lord Jesus gave Himself willingly for us, and we are to serve one another with the same spirit. This is a sweet-smelling sacrifice to God. How beautiful and sweet is the life lived for others; how the selfish spirit stinks before man and God. But it must be genuine, not hypocritical, for the hypocrite pretends to be unselfish for a selfish motive. This is the reason that the Lord said, that we are to let others praise us and not we ourselves. We are not to seek the chief seats. We are not to let our right hand know what our left hand does; neither are we to do our good things to be seen of men. There are many like things in the Scriptures to teach us to avoid hypocrisy and pretense.

**Vs. 3, 4 “But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.”**

There are some important things to say about this text:

A. Coveteousness is called idolatry by the Apostle in Col. 3:5, and it is commonly mentioned in connection with fornication, uncleanness, and other sexual sins. The tenth commandment internalizes all the others and forbids the desire for evil things.

B. The word is broader than a desire for earthly things, and includes all desire for pleasing yourself. It is the opposite of labor for the service of others. It is the labor and work for self; not for the good of others and the kingdom of God.

C. James says that

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. 16 Do not err, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” (Jas 1:14-17)

D. In Eph. 4:19 the gentiles were “past feeling, having given themselves

over to work all uncleanness with greediness,” and that the old man is corrupt with deceitful lusts [vs. 22]. This is not what you learned of Christ, he says in verse 20, and the apostle now expands on that theme here in chapter 5.

E. The sins named in these verses are the result of people seeking their own things and not seeking to edifying others. Fornication and all sexual uncleanness arises from this root, and they are not to be “named among us.” This is a New Testament application of “That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them:” (Jos 23:7) False Gods are always the personifications of wicked and depraved desires, and Paul here, goes to the root of idolatry and denounces the desire of evil things. They are not to be mentioned, let alone desired and longed after, or become the sources of pleasure.

F. Such things are “not convenient” they are not fit; they do not come up to the standard. We are to aim high in our behavior, our language, our desires. The desire for good things is not evil in itself; those who desire to be bishops, for instance, desire a good thing. The desire in itself is not evil and is given to us as a gift from God; but it must be according to the standard, not fall short.

G. Thankfulness is the standard. Every good thing comes from God, James says in the passage we just read., and we should desire the things that come from God, not evil things.

**Vs. 5-7. “For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.”** Here is a solemn warning, lest we think that Paul is just flapping his gums. There are no idle words in the Scriptures and all of them are to be taken seriously. Please note the following:

A. Only vain words would have you believe that such things are not the enemy of the souls of men. It is because of transgressions and sin that the wrath of God comes upon the children of the devil—those who are the offspring of Adam’s disobedience.

B. Children of disobedience are children of the old man, of Adam who brought a curse upon all his children because of his disobedience. This is not because of your disobedience, but because of Adam's disobedience. You have been disobedient, but that is because you were born alienated from God and without His spirit.

C. You are the children of obedience, the obedience of Christ, the last Adam. As dear children, beloved of God, you are called to put off the works of darkness and put on the garments of light: to put away these evil things and put on the new man in Christ. It is not optional.

D. Israel listened to the same lying words:

“8 Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit. 9 Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; 10 And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?” (Jer 7:8-10)

E. This is not to say that you can earn your way to heaven by not doing these things: this is not what the apostle is saying. The key is in chapter four: “Ye have not so learned Christ.”

1. The people of God are taught by God to love one another. These things are contrary to the love of Christ, but are rooted in covetousness—the evil desires of the heart.

2. The implication is that who do not love their neighbor have not been taught of God. This truth is expressed in Titus

“11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” (Tit 2:11-14 )

3. If you are a child of God, this work has begun in you. The great and

mighty power of the Holy Spirit is working in you, as we have seen throughout this book of Ephesians. This great power contends with the flesh, the old man. You win some, you lose some, but it is God who is teaching you to be conformed to Jesus Christ, to walk in love, to walk in service, as Christ also loved you and gave Himself for you.

4. But we are called to see these evil works as what they are: they are not the result of the liberty you have in Christ, but are the result of the slavery of the old man to sin; we denounce them in ourselves and reprove them in others, for we are called to exhort and encourage one another in the things of Christ.

5. Yes, you will not go to heaven if you continue and live in these things; but if you are a child of God by faith in Christ, you will not live and continue in them.

6. I have just been exercising one of the keys of the kingdom: shutting the door of heaven to those who live after the flesh, for it ye live after the flesh ye shall die, but if ye, through the spirit to mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. SEE HC

Q84: How is the kingdom of heaven opened and shut by the preaching of the Holy Gospel?

A84: In this way: that, according to the command of Christ, it is proclaimed and openly witnessed to believers, one and all, that as often as they accept with true faith the promise of the Gospel, all their sins are really forgiven them of God for the sake of Christ's merits; and on the contrary, to all unbelievers and hypocrites, that the wrath of God and eternal condemnation abide on them so long as they are not converted.[1] According to this testimony of the Gospel, God will judge men both in this life and in that which is to come.

**Vs. 8-10: 8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.”** This simply summarizes what I just said.

A. The fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth. These are the fruit of light, not darkness.

B. We are the children of the light and we are to walk as children of the light. Cast off the works of darkness. "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the amour of light." (Ro 13:12)

C. You are not darkness anymore; you are light and life. We are to "prove" the thing that is "acceptable" or pleasing to the Lord. Proving it, as you would bring the gold to the assayer, to find out if it is true gold.

1. The Scripture is the test. We bring our deeds, our attitudes, our desires, to the Scripture for that is the only place where they can be tested and proved. The Scripture with the Holy Spirit, with the counsel and advice of Godly people, these are the ways we learn whether our deeds are acceptable.

2. The Lord has shown what it is that pleases him: Do we walk to please ourselves, to please others, or to please our God? I hope and pray that He will continue His good work in each of you, so that your life and your death will be pleasing to God, a sweet sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise to Him even Jesus Christ, "who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." (Re 1:5-6 ) Let us walk before Him and kings and priest unto our God and Father as the Lord Jesus Christ."

Amen and Amen.

God bless you.