

Ephesians 5:1 - 21

 (based on The Message— a paraphrase)

¹⁻² Be imitators of God. Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that!

³⁻⁴ Don't let your love to turn into lust, setting off a downhill slide into a sexual loopy-goopy, or filthy practices, or bullying greed. Although some tongues just love the taste of gossip, those who follow Jesus have better uses for language than that. Don't talk dirty or silly. That kind of talk doesn't fit our style. Thanksgiving is our dialect.

⁵ You can be sure that using people or religion or things just for what you can get out of them—the usual variations on idolatry—will get you nowhere, and certainly nowhere near the kingdom of Christ, the kingdom of God.

⁶⁻⁷ Don't let yourselves get taken in by religious smooth talk. God gets furious with people who are full of religious sales talk but want nothing to do with Him. Don't even hang around people like that.



⁸⁻¹⁰ You now, are light in the LORD! You groped your way through this world's rebellious murk once, but no longer. You're out in the open now. The bright light of Christ makes your way plain. So no more stumbling around. Get on with it! The good, the right, the true—these are the actions appropriate for daylight hours.

Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it.

¹¹⁻¹⁶ Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the googling-work of finding more dark slime of life. Instead, expose godless things for the sham they are. It's a scandal when ungodly people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. Rip the cover off those scams and let people see just how attractive they look in the light of Christ! It's just like someone else once said:

Wake up from your sleep, Climb out of your coffins; Christ will shine on you!

So be very careful how you live. Use your head. Make the most of every opportunity God gives you. These days are evil days! So ¹⁷ Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants.

¹⁸⁻²⁰ Stop getting drunk. That cheapens your life. Drink the Spirit of God, great, refreshing gulps of God Himself. Sing hymns instead of drinking songs! Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ.

²¹ Out of respect for Christ, submit to one another, be courteously reverent to one another.



SO BEING RECONCILED IN OUR OTHER RELATIONSHIPS IS CRITICAL!



OKAY... BUT JESUS IS GOING TO HAVE TO START RECRUITING PEOPLE I CAN GET ALONG WITH IF THIS IS ALL GOING TO WORK!



Come and See!
Go and Tell

August 14, 2011
Ephesians Study #7

Ephesians 5:1-21

Puttin' off the old,
Puttin' on the new.

Turned on—
Lighten up!

- Ephesians 5:1 and 5:8—
What does God hold up for Christians to model?
- List some ways Christians "expose" fruitless deeds of darkness":

- What is the difference between a) "being very careful how you live...because these days are evil days" and b) "being a total grumpy bore"?

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