

Section IV — Chapter 5 and 6

Introduction for Ephesians 5:1-17

We have so much to learn about pleasing God. Some principles are easy to hear but hard to implement. Remember, our Father in Heaven loves us. We can be imitators of that love. What a difference love makes in the way we live! Let's see how it works in these verses.

Ephesians 5

- 1 Follow God's example in everything you do, because you are his dear children.
- 2 Live a life filled with love for others, following the example of Christ, who loved you and gave himself as a sacrifice to take away your sins. And God was pleased, because that sacrifice was like sweet perfume to him.
- 3 Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people.
- 4 Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes – these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God.
- 5 You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is really an idolater who worships the things of this world.
- 6 Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the terrible anger of God comes upon all those who disobey him.
- 7 Don't participate in the things these people do.
- 8 For though your hearts were once full of darkness, now you are full of light from the Lord, and your behavior should show it!
- 9 For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.
- 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.
- 11 Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, rebuke and expose them.
- 12 It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret.
- 13 But when the light shines on them, it becomes clear how evil these things are.
- 14 And where your light shines, it will expose their evil deeds. This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light."
- 15 So be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise.
- 16 Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days.
- 17 Don't act thoughtlessly, but try to understand what the Lord wants you to do.

Here are some things that I see in these verses:

- verse 1 — I am a dearly loved child of God.
- verse 2 — Jesus loves me so much that He died for me.
- verse 3 — God wants me to be morally pure.
- verse 4 — My speech should express thanksgiving to God.
- verse 10 — My responsibility is to find out what pleases the Lord and do it.
- verse 17 — God wants me to understand and accomplish His will.



SO...WHAT do you see?

NOW...WHAT does God want you to be or do?

Your Response...WHAT will you say to God today?

My prayer...

"Dear Heavenly Father,

I am so thankful that I am Your child. Thank You for loving me. I know that my actions and words do not always please You. Please forgive me and cleanse me from these patterns of living that grieve You. I ask for wisdom to understand what pleases You so that my life will be pure and holy. I ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen."



Introduction for Ephesians 5:18-21

God never leaves us alone. We have a “coach”, the Holy Spirit, who helps us live a life that pleases Him. As you read the Bible today, watch for the differences our coach can make.

Ephesians 5

- 18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you.
- 19 Then you will sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, making music to the Lord in your hearts.
- 20 And you will always give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 21 And further, you will submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Here are some things that I see in these verses:

- verse 18 — I must choose who will influence my life.
- verse 18 — The Holy Spirit will influence my life if I allow Him to do so.
- verse 19 — The Spirit of God will influence my speech.
- verse 21 — The way I treat Jesus is reflected in the way I treat others.

SO...WHAT do you see?

NOW...WHAT does God want you to be or do?

Your Response...WHAT will you say to God today?

My prayer...

"Dear God, my Father,

I want Your Holy Spirit to control my life. Help me to see when I am going my own way or allowing others to negatively influence me, so I can choose You. Please transform my words, attitudes and relationships to honor Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord.

In Jesus' Name, Amen."



Introduction for Ephesians 5:22-6:4

Life at home matters to God. He desires that our relationships be full of joy and encouragement, not pain. God has given us some effective principles for healthy family living. The principles found in these verses can help you and your family.

Ephesians 5

- 22 You wives will submit to your husbands as you do to the Lord.
- 23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of his body, the church; he gave his life to be her Savior.
- 24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives must submit to your husbands in everything.
- 25 And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her
- 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's word.
- 27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.
- 28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife.
- 29 No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body, which is the church.
- 30 And we are his body.
- 31 As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."
- 32 This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.
- 33 So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 6

- 1 Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.
- 2 "Honor your father and mother." This is the first of the Ten Commandments that ends with a promise.
- 3 And this is the promise: If you honor your father and mother, "you will live a long life, full of blessing."
- 4 And now a word to you fathers. Don't make your children angry by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction approved by the Lord.

Here are some things that I see in these verses:

- verse vs. 22-33 — The relationship between Christ and His Church is the pattern for successful marriage.
 - verse 6:2 — Honoring parents pleases God.
 - verse 4 — Parents who care about the spiritual health of their children please God.
-

SO...WHAT do you see?

NOW...WHAT does God want you to be or do?

Your Response...WHAT will you say to God today?

My prayer...

"Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for providing the way to experience loving relationships.

I desire to please You in the way I act toward those closest to me. Please

help me love my family the way You have loved me.

Because of Jesus' love for me. Amen."

