Ephesians 5:1–20

# Main Point

Christians must walk in love, speak in love, and shine the light of Christ so that the works of darkness can be exposed and the workers of darkness can become light in the Lord.

## Eph. 5:1-2

[1] Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. [2] And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

* How are we already imitating God in love?
* How can we grow in radical, Christ-like love to others?

## Eph. 5:3–4

[3] 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.

* How can we replace our covetous words with the language of thanksgiving?

## Eph. 5:5–7

[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. [6] 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;

* What implications does this have on our relationship with the homosexual agenda
  + in politics?
  + in the church?
* What about other types of sexual immorality, e.g., divorce and remarriage, pornography, lust?
* How are we supposed to relate with “Christians” in such sins? With the worldly?

## Eph. 5:8–10

[8] for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light [9] (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), [10] and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

* What does it mean that we are light in the Lord?
* How can we know if we are pleasing the Lord, i.e., walking in the light.

## Eph. 5:11–14

[11] 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. [13] But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, [14] for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, // and arise from the dead, // and Christ will shine on you.”

* Think on your own sin that you only do in secret. How would your habits change if such sin were exposed?
* How can we expose the darkness of this world?
* How should we speak about such shameful acts?
* How can we shine light in the darkness for the sake of conversion?

## Eph. 5:15–17

[15] 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.

* What does it mean that the days are evil?
* How is it that we walk as wise people?
* How can we understand the will of the Lord?

## Eph. 5:18

[18] And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

* Is it acceptable for a Christian to drink alcohol? to get tipsy? to be a drunkard?
* How should we interpret, “be filled with the Holy Spirit”?
* Should being filled with all the fullness of God be considered instantaneous or progressive (leading to glory)?

## Eph. 5:19

[19] addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

* What is the context for this fruit of the filling of the Spirit (daily life, corporate gathering, etc.)?
* How could we sing to one another in daily life?

## Eph. 5:20

[20] giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

* Should we really be thankful for *everything*—even the bad stuff in life?
* Why is it difficult to be thankful always and for everything?
* How can we increase in our thankfulness and expression of thanksgiving?