

Making the Most of Every Opportunity

Tonight's Focus: How can I imitate Christ?

Ephesians 5

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; **2** and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; **4** and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. **5** For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an 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 be partakers with them; **8** for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light **9** for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth, **10** trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. **11** Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; **12** for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. **13** But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. **14** For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you." **15** Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, **16** making the most of your time, because the days are evil. **17** So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; **20** always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. **22** Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. **24** But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, **26** so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27** that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. **28** So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; **29** for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, **30** because we are members of His body. **31** FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. **32** This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. **33** Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

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Ephesians 5:1-14 – Be Imitators of Christ

Is it possible for us to imitate God? (v. 1)

What does the phrase “named among you” (v. 3) mean and how is it linked to verse 5?

Why do you think Paul choose the word “partakers”? (v. 6)

How does the phrase “trying to learn” (v. 10) encourage you in your walk with God?

*And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature,
and in favor with God and men. Luke 2:52*

Definition

Expose = Reprove (v. 11)

Ephesians 5:15-21 – Making the Most of Every Opportunity

What does this passage say are keys to making the most of every opportunity?

Definition

Fear = Reverence (v. 21)

Ephesians 5:21-33 – Making the Most of Our Relationships

Remember: Your personal walk with God is not so personal anymore.

Understanding “mutual submission”

Husbands are subject to Christ, Wives are subject to Husbands

Husbands love wives, Wives Respect Husbands

How is your understanding of “mutual submission” changing now that you are married?

According to this passage, what is one of the purposes of marriage? (v. 27)

How is our marriage similar to Christ’s relationship with the church?

