

Session 5: WHY DO I NEED THE CHURCH?
(August 23, 2020)

Paul's Letter to The Ephesians

We have been studying Ephesians for five weeks now—six chapters—a good set of time to read this entire book. HAVE YOU? I encourage you to go back and read Ephesians completely. Paul wrote two books to explain Christianity. First, in Romans he described Christian Theology—difficult but necessary. Here in Ephesians Paul challenges believers to function as the living body of Christ on earth, to be unified.

- Session 1 -- We Have Joined Together
- Session 2 -- We Pray For One Another
- Session 3 -- We Support One Another
- Session 4 -- We Encourage One Another
- Session 5 -- We Strengthen One Another

You learned Ephesians key verses last Sunday: “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all” Eph. 4:3-6

Ephesians 5:1-7

I will emphasize ALL of Ephesians 5, so you can get out your Bible now. Let's start with Ephesians 5:1-2, “Be imitators of God”. Our Bible shows us what Jesus did for us—finally He gave Himself up for us. Note that Jesus' sacrifice was for God. We love to honor God. What kind of life did Christ live? One of love. And we are His children. What a totality for three lines of scripture!

Why did Paul include verses 3-7? To indicate what we should NOT be pursuing as God's holy people.

Ephesians 5:8-14

This passage speaks of being “children of the light”. This scripture is a direct focus on God's love. Look up LIGHT in your Bible's Concordance. Below are a few verses.

Matthew 5:16 -- “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds & praise your Father in heaven”.

John 1:3-5 -- “Through Him (Jesus) all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.”

John 8:12 -- “When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

What fruit do you find in God’s light (goodness, righteousness, truth)? As you look for what pleases God, your Bible will help you. Verse fourteen is thought to be from one of their hymns – Joyful! Christ will shine on you!

Let’s examine our lesson title and point— “We strengthen one another to live as God desires”. How does this scripture help us?

- 1) We are to help each other walk as children of light.
- 2) Strengthen each other to expose works of darkness.
- 3) Let God’s light shine on you!
- 4) Remember God’s light can change darkness to light.

Ephesians 5:15-21

So how are we to live? Walk wisely, understanding what God’s will is. Your lesson book has a section marked ENGAGE on page 148. How do you spend your time?

Paul makes suggestions in verses 18-21. Don’t get intoxicated. Make music to the Lord. Give thanks always. Submit to others (lose your own right for the sake of others).

Ephesians 5:22-33

Our lesson stops here. But it is important to read the rest of chapter five as Paul illustrates the marriage bond: submitting as wives and husbands. Digest these words and commit to God’s message. Note how Paul compares marriage to our Holy Church—Love, Submit, Respect.

Linda Breaks