



## **Ephesians 5:1-21 – Imitators of God**

### **Ephesians 4 summary**

- Walking Together In Unity and Maturity - Ep 4:1-16
- Walking In Holiness, Truth And Forgiveness - Ep 4:17-32

### **Ephesians 5:1-21 – Main themes:**

- Be Imitators of God – Ephesians 5:1
- Walk in Love - Ep 5:2-6
- Walk in the Light - Ep 5:7-14
- Walk in Wisdom - Ep 5:15-21

### **Ephesians 5:1-2**

Jesus – the “firstborn” – see Colossians 1:15, 18, Romans 8:29 cf Hebrews 1:6 and Revelation 1:5

The 3 enemies of the Christian – Self or sin (Eph 2:3), the World (Eph 2:2a) and the Devil (Eph 2:2b).

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“It is noteworthy how God-centred Paul’s ethic is. It is natural for him, in issuing his moral instructions, to mention the three Persons of the Trinity. He tells us to ‘copy God’, to ‘learn Christ’ and not to ‘grieve the Holy Spirit.’”

John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Ephesians*, Leicester: Inter-varsity Press, 1979. page 191.

### **Ephesians 5:3-6**

- **Sexual Immorality** – any sexual activity outside of the marriage relationship of husband and wife.
- Idolatry is substituting God with someone or something else.
- “Sin is the refusal to let God be God.” – (Gerard Hughes).

### **Ephesians 5:7-14**

Live as children of light and expose dark deeds.

### **Ephesians 5:15-21**

- Three things that characterize those who walk in wisdom:
- Vs 16 - Wise people make the most of their time.
- Vs 17 - Wise people understand and discern God’s will.  
*Note difference between God’s general and specific will.*
- Vs 18 – Wise people are filled with the Holy Spirit. A continuous act is implied – i.e. go on being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Instead of foolish talk when drunk, our words will speak and sing spiritual songs to each other, thanking God and submitting to each other out of reverence for Christ.