

## Ephesians 5 Living in the Light

<sup>5</sup> Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. <sup>2</sup> Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us<sup>[a]</sup> and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

<sup>3</sup> Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. <sup>4</sup> Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. <sup>5</sup> 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 an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

<sup>6</sup> Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. <sup>7</sup> Don't participate in the things these people do. <sup>8</sup> For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! <sup>9</sup> For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

<sup>10</sup> Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. <sup>12</sup> It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, <sup>14</sup> for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

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<sup>15</sup> So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. <sup>17</sup> Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. <sup>18</sup> Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>19</sup> singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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<sup>21</sup> And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>22</sup> For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. <sup>24</sup> As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. <sup>29</sup> No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. <sup>30</sup> And we are members of his body.

<sup>31</sup> As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. <sup>33</sup> So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

## Colossians 3:1-25 Living the New Life

<sup>3</sup> Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. <sup>2</sup> Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> And when Christ, who is your<sup>[a]</sup> life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

<sup>5</sup> So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. <sup>6</sup> Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>7</sup> You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. <sup>8</sup> But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. <sup>9</sup> Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. <sup>10</sup> Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. <sup>11</sup> In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile,<sup>[c]</sup> circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized,<sup>[d]</sup> slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

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<sup>12</sup> Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

<sup>16</sup> Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

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<sup>18</sup> **Wives**, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord.

<sup>19</sup> **Husbands**, love your wives and never treat them harshly.

<sup>20</sup> **Children**, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged.

<sup>22</sup> **Slaves**, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord.

<sup>23</sup> **Work** willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. <sup>24</sup> Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>25</sup> But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites.